

7 ancient sarcophagi found near motorway

CAIRO (AFP) — Seven ancient sarcophagi have been discovered only a few metres from a motorway slicing past the pyramids, the head of Egypt's Department of Antiquities announced Wednesday. Abdul Halim Nur Eddin, quoted by the daily Al Akhbar, said the pharaonic sarcophagi were found in tombs carved in the rock. One contained a scroll belonging to a pharaoh named Iun Shams, along with a large quantity of porcelain pots and offerings. A final decision on whether to continue the construction of the motorway will be taken by the end of this week, officials said Monday. President Hosni Mubarak last month ordered a halt to construction work on the road, which will pass within 2.5 kilometres of the Sphinx and the three pyramids at Giza, just outside Cairo. Said Zulfikar, an expert from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), has described the motorway as illegal and in violation of both Egyptian and international law on the protection of the world's heritage.

British worker wins £18 million in lottery

LONDON (AP) — A mother and three children won Britain's £18 million lottery on Wednesday. The mother, grandmother and two sons, aged 11, 10 and 10, won the £18 million jackpot in the first draw of the new £18 million lottery. The winning ticket was sold in London, and the winners will receive £15 million tax-free. The lottery is run by the National Lottery Commission, which is a government body.

He said that the Muslim peoples were attaching great hopes on the summit to unify their ranks and help them confront the challenges facing the umma.

The King said he wished the conference would lead to attaining solidarity among the Muslim countries and enhance their differences.

Reminding his fellow leaders that the world was witnessing the formation of blocs among nations which had been in conflict in the past, the King said that Islamic countries should avoid disunity and join forces to confront the requirements of the modern age.

He said the sweeping changes in the world around us could not wait for the desperate, the fearful or the hesitant.

The King said that the Islamic faith provided real power for the Muslims to embark on meaningful action that would fulfil the Islamic countries' legitimate aspirations.

Urging Muslims to resort to dialogue and adopt scientific approaches to solving

problems, the King said that that could help various nations to reach understanding and open new avenues for progress, justice and democracy.

In outlining Jordan's position on the peace process, King Hussein said that all the Muslim leaders were aware of the circumstances that surrounded the Arab-Israeli conflict which lasted for decades and caused so much suffering to all parties.

He said the time had come for conflicting parties to come to an understanding to reach a just and durable peace based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338.

"On this basis, we convened the Madrid conference as a beginning to the peace process and together with the rest of the Arab parties we moved ahead towards attaining a just peace," he added.

He said that the Palestinians had reached agreement in Oslo and before that Egypt had signed a peace treaty with Israel. "It was Egypt which originally led the Arab World into conflict with Israel."

He said Jordan signed with Israel a peace treaty which had restored to the country its territory, water and security, and paved the way for a comprehensive peace.

Referring to the question

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية مستقلة عربية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية



Volume 19 Number 5794

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15-16, 1994, RAJAB 12-13, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

King urges umma to unite, shun violence, backwardness

'Jordan will not accept any sovereignty over Jerusalem except that of God'



His Majesty King Hussein waves to the press as he arrives at the royal palace in Casablanca Wednesday for the second day of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference summit.

King Hussein later left Casablanca leaving Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali to head the Jordanian delegation (AFP photo)

House cables full support for King

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday voiced its absolute support for His Majesty King Hussein's efforts aimed at unifying the Arab World and restoring Arab rights.

The House said in a cable signed by Speaker Saad Hayel Sour that "The Jordanian people follow up with deep pride your endeavours

at the Casablanca Islamic summit which aim at reestablishing solidarity among Arab and Muslim countries.

The Lower House backs Your Majesty's relentless effort aimed at ending the conflicts in Bosnia and Afghanistan as well as your relentless efforts to ensure continued care and protection to the holy places of Jerusalem and preserve its Arab and Islamic identity," the statement added.

The Lower House also sent another cable to King Hassan II of Morocco, voicing support for the Islamic conference and demanding that Jordan retain its role as custodian of the Islamic shrines in

the Holy City of Jerusalem until the final status of the city has been determined.

Leading King Hassan's role at the Islamic conferences, the House's statement said that the House was looking forward to the conference supporting Jordan's endeavours to ensure its continued trusteeship of the holy shrines.

PLO rejects Israeli election offer

CAIRO (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Wednesday insisted that Israeli troops pull out of Palestinian cities and towns on the West Bank to make way for self-rule elections, rejecting an offer for a partial withdrawal.

The disagreement threatened implementation of the autonomy agreement, which Israel appears to want to slow down following attacks by militants bent on wrecking the peace process.

However, PLO officials denied the dialogue had founders.

"There is no impasse, no

deadlock in the negotiations.

There are some disagreements," said the PLO planning minister, Nabil Shaath.

Israel and the PLO agreed

in their September 1993 self-rule accord that Israeli troops

would withdraw from urban

centres in the West Bank

before elections for a self-governing Palestinian assembly.

However, Israeli fears that

a withdrawal might provide

greater freedom of movement

for Islamic militants

have been heightened by

continued violence. The Israeli

government is concerned about

the safety of 120,000 Jewish

settlers living among the

one million Palestinians in

the West Bank.

Last weekend, PLO negotiators

said, Israel put forth a

compromise entailing a reduced

Israeli presence in the

cities, but with a limited num-

ber of Israeli soldiers remain-

ing in joint platoons with

Palestinian police-

men.

The proposal appeared

aimed at reconciling Israel's

security concerns with

Palestinian sensitivity to a

visible Israeli presence on

election day.

PLO negotiators "absolu-

tely rejected" the idea, said

Mr. Shaath, calling on Israel

to abide by the autonomy

agreement.

"But it seems that it has

been a long time since the

ministry activated the role

of the inspection committee

making it look, despite

(Continued on page 7)

Minister briefs Parliament: Food subsidies continue, wheat alone at JD 40 million

AMMAN (Petra) — The government will continue to subsidise basic food commodities and has budgeted JD 40 million as this year's subsidy of bread alone, Minister of Supply Adel Qudah said Wednesday.

Bread, the minister said, is being sold at half cost.

He said the government will continue to issue food coupons that would enable limited income groups to purchase basic staples at reduced prices and was providing animal feed to farmers at cost price.

The minister presented the House with figures that show a clear rise in the cost of living over the past 11 months.

According to the figures, the cost of living index registered 110.3 points last month, compared to 104.6 points at the end of 1993. He said that cost of food commodities rose to 116.7 points last month, up from 109.6 points at the end of 1993.

The commodities include meat, poultry, fish, dairy products, eggs, cooking oil, fruits, vegetables, dry legumes, nuts, sugar, tea refreshments and tobacco, Mr. Qudah said.

The minister said during this year the price of a tonne of wheat rose at the international market from \$119 to \$175, sugar from \$340 to

\$462, rice from \$280 to \$418 and dried milk from \$23 a carton to \$35.

He said that in addition to these rises the transport of each tonne of these commodities cost \$20.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15-16, 1994

reconstruction hold as ologists cry for

Home News



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday confers with Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad of the Pakistan National Atomic Energy Corporation (Petra photo)

Jordan, Pakistan explore cooperation in peaceful use of nuclear energy

AMMAN (Petra) — Prospects for cooperation between Pakistan and Jordan in the peaceful use of nuclear energy Wednesday at the Royal Court between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent and a delegation from the Pakistan National Atomic Energy Corporation led by Ishfaq Ahmad.

Discussion covered the possible use of nuclear energy by the two countries to increase agricultural production, in medicine and in food

preservation processes.

In remarks at the meeting, the Regent suggested that the two sides form an objective concept that would enable Islamic nations to become self-reliant in nuclear energy generation, and would be supported by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Dr. Ahmad lauded Prince Hassan's ongoing efforts towards Jordan's progress in science and technology and invited the Regent to preside over a meeting by Muslim

scientists to draft a working plan, which he said, would enable the Muslim world to enter the 21st century equipped with the required scientific knowledge need for progress.

Present at the meeting was Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Talal Uteiqat, Secretary General of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) Hani Mulk, and Pakistani Ambassador and

Pakistani Ambassador Tariq Khan Afridi.

Accidents happen at construction sites, he stressed. Solteneh said, "we have to take into account the possible number of archaeological sites."

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Major announces first fruits of Northern Ireland peace

BELFAST (R) — British Prime Minister John Major said Wednesday large investment projects by British, U.S. and Japanese firms were the first economic fruits of Northern Ireland's new-found peace.

At a Belfast investment conference called to cash in on a "peace dividend" after rival guerrillas laid down their arms, Mr. Major said optimism is the province was at its highest for 25 years and appealed to business leaders for more investment.

He said the dogged determination shown by Northern Ireland's people during times of violence was the most compelling reason for them to invest in the province now peace had come.

"What terror knocked down, the brave people of Northern Ireland have rebuilt, in some cases again and again," Mr. Major told more than 250 delegates from 13 countries.

"They testify to the determination and enterprise of Northern Ireland's people, to human qualities which cannot be taught or manufactured."

"You will find these human qualities the most compelling reason of all for tak-

ing a stake in Northern Ireland."

U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown backed him, telling reporters after the meeting: "People expect their lives to change when peace comes and you have to be prepared to meet those expectations."

The forum is the latest step in a rapid but fragile peace process which formally began a year ago Thursday with the Downing Street Declaration, a joint Anglo-Irish peace plan.

But the meeting was shunned by the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein, whose six local councillors picketed it in protest at the half-hearted invitation Britain made them at the last minute.

Sinn Fein, which last week sat down with British officials for the first formal talks for more than 70 years as a reward for the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) ceasefire on Sept. 1, said it was being discriminated against. Britain denied this.

British officials are to talk Thursday to allies of Protestant guerrillas, the IRA's arch-enemies, who announced their own true in

October.

They want Northern Ireland to stay British. The IRA, backed by some of the province's Catholic minority, fought for 25 years to end British rule and Ireland's seven decades of partition.

The troubles turned a booming, industrialised economy into one dependent on British state hand-outs and public-sector jobs. Mr. Major hopes peace could restore it to its former glory.

Mr. Major announced that the five companies from Britain, the United States and Japan had decided to invest a total of \$60 million (\$94 million) in the province.

The biggest investment, just over half that sum, will come from telecommunications giant British Telecom whose office expansion projects will create more than 100 new jobs.

Ford cars, the chemicals giant Du Pont and Naco Forklift truckmakers are among the U.S. investment and Japan's Fujitsu computer group has also announced plans for the province.

Mr. Major also said Britain will launch an initiative to get the long-term unemployed in the province back to work

with a community work programme which will give 1,000 of them "stimulating and meaningful work" over the next two years.

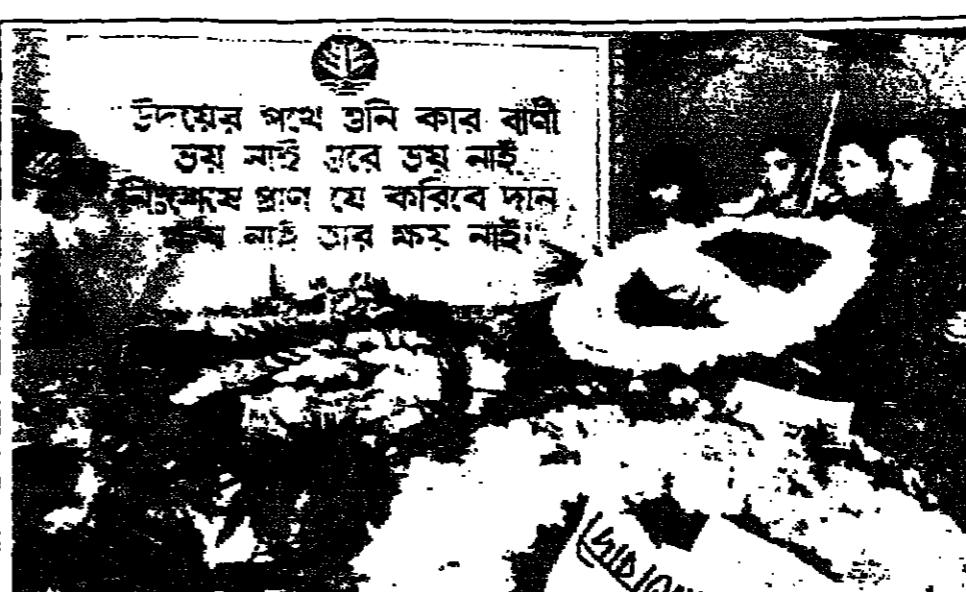
Northern Ireland is a jobs blackspot with unemployment at 12.7 per cent.

Replying to U.S. criticisms that minority Catholics were still discriminated against by employers in the province, Mr. Major pledged: "Ensuring the fairest possible employment conditions is an essential objective for the British government."

Mr. Brown, heading a strong American delegation to the forum, said he was convinced the economic problems could be solved.

He said he had studied apparently intractable economic problems in many parts of the world such as Russia and the Middle East. "This is one that I think is doable," he told reporters.

Mr. Brown welcomed Mr. Major's commitment to end job discrimination. "The fact that Mr. Major raised in his speech was, I think, very important. It is clearly one of the most serious underlying problems. Discrimination leaves many scars," he said.



MEMORIAL DAY: Relatives of Bangladeshi intellectuals, killed on the eve of Bangladesh's 1971 independence, including teachers, doctors and journalists killed by the Pakistani army and militiamen, two days before their surrender on Dec. 16, 1971 to the Indian-backed Liberation Army (AFP photo)

Lang says 'probably' will not stand

PARIS (AFP) — Former Culture Minister Jack Lang, tipped as the French left's frontrunner for presidential elections next spring after Jacques Delors pulled out, said Wednesday he "probably" will not stand as a candidate.

Mr. Lang, who has emerged as the most popular leftist figure after the withdrawal of the European Commission president from the race at the weekend, said the left should take its time in deciding its next step.

Asked on French radio: "So you won't be a candidate?" Mr. Lang replied: "That's your prediction, and you are probably not wrong," adding: "We have to reflect, take our time, not rush into things."

Mr. Delors' pullout has shattered the French left, which was counting on him as the only credible electable candidate to take on rightist likely candidates Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Paris Mayor Jacques

Chirac.

In

opinion polls published since Mr. Delors' announcement Mr. Lang, a Euro-MP, has consistently appeared as the most popular alternative with voters, although he would still not beat Mr. Balladur or Mr. Chirac, according to the polls.

Mr. Lang Wednesday

echoed comments by maverick politician Bernard Tapie made the previous calling for the left to rally round a single candidate to avoid the risk of splitting its support.

"I think it is a good idea to gather together people who have ideas, proposals," he said, praising Mr. Tapie's "combativeness and energy."

Mr. Tapie, also tipped as a possible candidate, said

Tuesday he was not a candidate, but declined to rule out running if the struggle within the French left could not be resolved.

Meanwhile, French law-

makers overnight voted in favour of sweeping changes in the funding of politicians.

The

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by 117 out of 143 deputies

present for the late-night

vote, with 26 abstaining. The turnout was exceptional for such a sitting.

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QE2 leaves
Hamburg after
\$45 refit

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Elizabeth II luxury liner left the north German port city of Hamburg Wednesday after a 27-day \$45 million refit. The almost 100,000-tonne ocean liner left the dry dock at the Blohm + Voss Shipyard in the early hours and headed for Southampton, making sea trials. All five of the 1,200 crew members on board the ship have been retrained. Bathrooms were re-decorated and some onboard wash machines. The final touches, such as laying carpet, were due to be taken care of en route to Britain. New York, New York, Nov. 14 — The 100th anniversary of the sinking of the RMS泰坦尼克号沉没于1912年，当时它在穿越大西洋时撞上冰山，造成1500多人丧生。泰坦尼克号是当时世界上最大的客轮，它在沉没后立即引起了全球范围内的关注和讨论。

Court gag stops
papers naming
lottery winner

Rebel soldiers loyal to Muslim leader Fikret Abdic run for shelter during street fights in the western Bosnian town of Velika Kladusa, some 40 kilometres north of Bihać, Bosnia

Serb forces and Abdic soldiers are continuously advancing on their way to surround the Bosnian Muslim enclave Bihać (AFP photo)

7 Indian ministers offer to quit

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Seven Indian ministers Wednesday offered to resign as the ruling Congress (I) Party began a crucial meeting here following its election rout in two key southern states.

The seven ministers said they were ready to quit to enable Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, 73, to reshuffle his cabinet in the wake of the humiliating defeat in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

The middle-rung ministers made the offer to Mr. Rao some three hours before the powerful Congress Working Committee (CWC) started its two-day meeting to debate the fate of the country's three-year-old economic reforms.

They included Minister of State for External Affairs Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for Transport Jagdish Tytler, Minister of State for Environment Kamal Nath, and Minister of State for Tourism Sukhbir Kaur.

The seven urged Mr. Rao, take action against cabinet members tainted by corruption charges, saying the Congress' sagging image and in-fighting were also to blame for its poll defeat, a spokesman said.

The ministers expressed full backing to the economic liberalisation, but said the government should project its "anti-poverty programs" forcefully to blunt opposition charges that the reforms were for the rich.

Mr. Rao, who has come under widespread flak over the Congress debacle, did not react to the ministers' suggestion. He later presided over the CWC meeting held at his heavily-guarded official residence.

India's Minister for Civil Supplies A.K. Antony resigned Wednesday over a sugar import scandal that has paralysed parliament for two days.

Mr. Antony told a news conference: "I own moral responsibility and I have resigned as minister."

They included Minister of State for External Affairs Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for Transport Jagdish Tytler, Minister of State for Environment Kamal Nath, and Minister of State for Tourism Sukhbir Kaur.

Mr. Antony resigned after a government minister told parliament that an official report on the scandal last year had named Mr. Antony along with other senior officials.

There was no immediate confirmation whether the resignation had been accepted by Mr. Rao.

Congress spokesman Vitali Gadgil said the CWC would discuss party strategy for elections scheduled in February 1995 in five of India's 25 states. Parliamentary elections are due in mid-1996.

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Weekender

Dec. 15, 1994

Published Every Thursday

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Theatre festival postponed; but who foots the bill?

By Mohammad Mashariqa

Jordanian theatre festivals normally present an opportunity to the scholars and the critics to monitor progress in the Jordanian theatre movement.

Ever since the start of the Gulf War, which saw the closure of Gulf markets for Jordanian television production, Jordanian theatre has been witnessing a noticeable rebirth, largely due to the return of well-known actors and actresses to the stage.

Indeed, theatre groups have since been able to present to the public very successful works of art, reflecting the skill of the producers and the directors who excelled especially in classical themes and in satirical comedies.

These artists included Sawsan Darwazeh, Khaled Tarifi, Fathi Abdul Rahman, Nader Omran, Vesna Mashariqa and Hakim Harb among others.

In the past three years Jordanian theatre work won very high praise at pan-Arab festivals where critics hailed the Jordanian skills that won the Kingdom several awards.

The success has prompted theatre groups to step up their activities and to organise seminars to discuss ways of further promoting theatre work and win the favour of audiences.

Luckily this year the Gulf markets slightly opened their doors for Jordanian theatre and artistic works, following arduous and relentless efforts.

Meanwhile, five of our theatre directors have submitted scripts for this year's third Jordanian Theatre Festival and made ample preparations through training and workshops from last September.

One of the directors, Khaled Tarifi said: "Directing theatre is a source of joy for me because I have always worked for theatre and I am obsessed with this kind of art work. I realise that acting requires a great deal of training and preparation and so I embarked on this hard and arduous task with all my might since the early 1980s."

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

"Despite the hard work of preparing for the third festival with all that it entails of sacrifice and skillful training, we were dismayed to hear the Higher Festival Committee's announcement about the postponement of this long-awaited festival until the spring of 1995."

"The artists, the actors, the directors and the producers all raised the hue and cry and strongly protested the delay noting that everything was almost ready for the festival," noted Tarifi who added that the postponement was "unreasonable and unacceptable to anyone."

Vesna Mashariqa told me that everything was ready for the third festival including the costumes, the music, the decor and the lighting.

We have borrowed sums of money to be repaid after the festival said Vesna, noting that the Ministry of Culture had made a grant of JD 3,500 for the festival which she said "was not sufficient to cover expenses incurred by volunteer actors who have been working with me for 80 days."

"How does the higher committee dare to put off the festival in this arbitrary manner. It is totally unreasonable and illogical," she added.

Hatem Al Sayed, director of the theatre at the Ministry of Culture, responds to these questions by saying: "We have informed all the directors and artists and actors that they should first join the Artist Association."

"We also tried to convince everyone that due to the severe weather conditions it would be advisable to postpone the festival's date, but they turned down the idea and we are trying to persuade them to accept it," added Mr. Sayed.

I have pointed to Mr. Sayed that it was illogical to ask the artists to join the association only two weeks before the date the festival was due to start and also reminded him that he was going to Cairo to attend the Egyptian festival there soon. But he replied that his trip to Cairo has nothing to do with the festival

here, adding that he had already informed the actors and the directors of the Higher Committee's decision beforehand, and it was their own fault for failing to comply.

Mohammad Barmawi, the head of the association, who was enthusiastic about the postponement of the festival and who plans to leave for Cairo too, said that he supported the postponement due to the bad weather conditions and also because some of the actors and directors have failed to join the association yet.

When I asked how can the association destroy the efforts of artists which lasted for over two months, he replied that he was trying to be of assistance but the Higher Committee's decision was final.

Before this article sees the light, the four men who decided to cancel the festival this year will have travelled to Cairo.

But those who stood to bear the damage and are dismayed by the decision asked: "Who would pay for the dress makers, the carpenters, the studios, the music and the actors."

Tarifi swore that he would abandon theatre work for good. Fathi Abdul Rahman described the situation as "an unprecedented farce" while Vesna commented by saying that "this situation was similar to a madhouse or a lunatic asylum and not an atmosphere for promoting the work of creative people."

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

Looking for an A team



Charles Richards in the new Arabic newsroom at BBC Television Centre in London.

BBC ARABISATION: And Le Goy will not have to miss everything about Jordan because BBC Worldwide Television recently announced the appointment of one of its former Middle East reporters, Charles Richards, as the first editor of its Arabic news operation. Richards, who was among the throng of foreign reporters sent to Amman during the Gulf crisis, was The Independent's correspondent in Jerusalem and Rome, and more recently its Middle East editor. He is now based in the new Arabic newsroom at BBC Television Centre in London. The Arabic news operation supplies news programming for the BBC's Arabic news and information channel.

"The BBC is the first foreign broadcaster to set up an entire television news operation in a language other than its own and our output has already grown to broadcasting eight bulletins daily," said Johan Ramsland, editor of BBC World Service Television News. "Charles' wealth of knowledge and experience of Middle East affairs makes him the ideal person to guide the development of our Arabic television news as it moves to a 24-hour schedule."

The BBC's Worldwide Television Arabic language channel began broadcasting on the Orbit Television and Radio network across the Middle East and North Africa for two hours daily last June. But, here in Jordan the costs are said to be prohibitive, and only those fortunate-equipped boob-tube addicts can tune in to the new programme.

Richards' appointment comes amid the BBC's search for an Arabic television news correspondent in Jordan. The person selected for the job would have to work "hand-in-hand" with the BBC's Amman-based English news correspondent, Lyse Dusette, described affectionately by her colleagues as "workaholic Lysette." BBC's ideal candidate was most probably their very own Jordanian correspondent Salameh Nematt. But Nematt's penchant for doing a multitude of other things and his attachment to his favourite job as the Amman correspondent for the London-based Al Hayat Arabic daily were more than likely too comfortable to abandon.

★ ★ ★

While the head-hunting for the well-paying position proceeds, Al Hayat has some explaining to do over not going beyond having Nematt as correspon-

dent. Nearly a year ago the paper's chief editor Jihad Khazen got the green light from the government of Jordan to print his newspaper from Amman, but so far nothing has materialised. Sources, who said the idea behind this step is to get the paper to the West Bank and Gaza, claim the feasibility of the endeavour is still being studied. The primary determining factor appears to be where indeed it would be easier to publish from. Al Hayat says it has faced some clipped press freedoms here in Jordan. But on the West Bank the press has been shut down altogether at times. The publishers would like to see their paper reach the readers on the same day, but from which side of the river will the presses roll is still "up in the air."

Al Hayat, which began publishing in Oct. 1988, now prints from six cities: London, New York, Frankfurt, Beirut, Manama, and Cairo. That beats the Herald Tribune which prints only out of Paris. Although the paper has extended itself heavily in capital investments and has been running in the red since its inception, its funding sources, which are a highly kept secret, are undaunted by the long wait to the break-even point and finally on to profit.

Al Hayat distributing straight from Amman may be threatening enough to some media moguls, but the air smells of even more competition.

★ ★ ★

THE ONE EVERYONE'S BEEN GUESSING ABOUT: It's confirmed. Lower House of Parliament Deputy and former Prime Minister Taher Masri and a group of other influential businesspersons are seriously planning to start a daily Arabic newspaper, which, judging from Mr. Masri's description, could give other dailies in town a run for their money. Although still in the primary stages, Mr. Masri said, the plan is to print a daily that would balance three major areas of interest, politics, economics and culture, all with the "highest standards of professionalism." Such an undertaking, the former prime minister admits, is a long and costly process, particularly since the investors agree that publishing a newspaper of distinction requires quality in material and human resources. The investors are apparently looking first to the success of the newspaper on the national front. If the response is positive, Mr. Masri said, they will consider distributing "across the river," i.e. the West Bank and Gaza.

Among the interested investors are Wasif Azer, a former director of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Corporation, now general manager of The Business Bank (a major investor in Al Ra'i daily), Ahmad Taher, a successful businessman, Awani Saker, former chief of the Jordanian Contractors Association, and others.

★ ★ ★

SHE'S BACK: With all the talk of a potential increase in press activity in town (and perhaps also prices), in flew the JT's one-and-only Sa'eda Kilani from a six-month stint at The Charlotte Observer while on an Alfred Friendly Press Fellowship. Her editors were cautiously poised to see what soothsaying effect six-months in the good-ole-south would have on independent-minded, women's lib activist Kilani.

Soothing was the wrong word. Kilani returned in form much as she had left, except for the chic new coif and an imposing southern drawl. But on paper, we let her own words tell a bit of her U.S. experience and what she observed in U.S. journalistic values and practices. "The emphasis in any story or news item in my country," wrote Kilani, "is on 'personalities' rather than on 'individuals' or ordinary people as is the case here (the U.S.). Perhaps my colleagues and my editors would be willing to change this but, surprisingly enough, it might be the readers and the people themselves who would not accept such a change. Whether that is feasible or not, is of great importance to me, frankly speaking. What is important is that I think I now have more guts and more confidence to write whatever stories I like — including so-called 'light' or 'fun' stories — and to defend them."

Welcome back, hal beyna Sa'eda, maybe now you could teach us a thing or two.

★ ★ ★

LIFE'S PASSAGES: As with all life's passages, some are sad, some happy. Last week the Arabic print media lost a newspaper pioneer with the passing of Sadiq Al Shanti. Born in 1909 in Jaffa, Mr. Shanti and his brother Ibrahim were founders of Al Difa' newspaper in the early part of this century. After 1948, Al Shanti began publishing Al Difa' in Egypt. There he also published Al Oahira (Cairo) until 1954. Mr. Shanti returned to Palestine to again publish Al Difa' until 1966, and following the 1967 war he published the daily from Amman until 1971. Mr. Shanti died in the U.S.

★ ★ ★

A wedding zafra' played for Al Ra'i reporter Issam Qadmani and his bride Dina Mbeidin last week. Issam met Dina while she was employed at the Ministry of Transportation. Dina now works for the National Aid Fund, and Issam has been writing on the transportation industry and related movements for the past four years. The rather conscientious couple took only a short honeymoon and reported back to work almost within a week of their nuptials.

★ ★ ★

TIS THE SEASON: The holiday season brings on movement about town and out of town. U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Beecroft and his wife Mette, both former language academics at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, were said to plan Christmas dinner in Amman then head north to Damascus for a New Year's Eve revelry. Ingrid Liedgens, first secretary at the German embassy is staying put. She has drawn up an eclectic guest list for her Weihnachten party. And the Nabil and Hisham Theatre will close over the holidays as Nabil and Jackie Sawalla will join up in England with brother Nadin and his wife Bobby (who flew out of Amman Wednesday) for Christmas cheer and tales of sugar plum fairies with all the family. The theatre, which has recently started its Ab Salam, Ya Salam production in English, will be closed from Dec. 23-Jan. 11. Curtains up again on the night of Jan. 12.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Romania offers filmmakers quality at low cost

By Francoise Michel
Agence France Presse

suburban Bucharest, and expects Disney Channel to be interested when the film are released next March.

"Here there is no loss of quality," Arnold said. "To make a movie offshore is far more cost-efficient than in Hollywood where the costs are continuously rising. Here we can put more value on the screen."

The set with houses like mushrooms is the work of young Romanian designer Valentin Calinescu, who is a great admirer of Hollywood productions.

"I prefer to work on American films," he said.

wage in Romania is about \$100.

Seven young American actors are playing the main roles, including the hero Josh Kirby. There are three Romanian actors, whose voices will be dubbed for U.S. viewing.

"Everybody was working to get rid of the snow," he said. "I was really impressed, everybody realised we were in trouble. I don't know if it would have been the same in America." It took two hours to clear the snow.

It has been easy enough to find extras to put in 12-hour days for 10,000 lei (\$6). The average monthly

at young audiences. That is the most profitable sector of the American market, Paunescu said.

Romanian workmen were busy constructing a dummy spacecraft and orbital station. Elsewhere, there were the huts of an African village, the wooden houses of a town in the Far West, and the fuselage of an airplane, all souvenirs of the 25 films Castel has made since 1991.

"They will come round to appreciating us," he said confidently, thinking of the latest American technology his work is making available.

Romania offers American producers a variety of countryside which is rare in central Europe, ranging from the Carpathian

mountains to the banks of the River Danube.

The hills of Transylvania were the setting recently for a children's video Wee People set in Ireland.

Other Romanian filmmakers, who feel their output is more dignified, tend to look down on Castel Film, but Paunescu is sure he is helping to develop the local film industry.

If we would only give, just once, the same amount of reflection to what we want to get out of life that we give to the question of what to do with a two-weeks vacation, we would be startled at our false standards and the aimless procession of our busy days — Dorothy Canfield Fisher, American author and essayist (1879-1958).

No failure, but low aim, is crime — James Russell Lowell, American editor and essayist (1819-1891).

Injustice is relatively easy to bear; what stings is justice — H.L. Mencken, American journalist, writer and editor (1880-1956).

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A time to buy...

By Jean-Claude Elias

Whether a personal affair or a business acquisition, the purchase of a new computer, as for any other equipment, is rarely done without careful study and thinking. The decision may be quick or it can take some time, but it is never without a certain amount of analysis, comparison and evaluation.

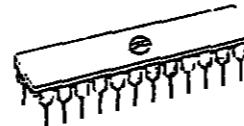
Whatever the purpose, one expects to make a good buy. Getting the most for one's money is everybody's concern. Is the machine up-to-date? How long will it last? For how much could one hope to re-sell it after a three or four years? While these questions are relatively easy to answer for "normal" hardware like a car, a TV set or a refrigerator, computers completely elude the system.

The speed of change in PCs' (personal computers) technical characteristics and the continuous, astounding drop in prices make forecasts difficult. A drastic depressing, but so very realistic attitude would be to think of the machines as being completely disposable in four years from the purchase. A friend was recently offered the humiliating sum of JD 50 for his 286 PC, of which he was proud and which used to be considered a "powerful" machine only six or seven years ago.

Those who try to follow the PC market on both the technical and the financial levels, often ask themselves: "Is it the right time to buy?" "Should I wait until prices go down further?" "A new disk with a bigger capacity, or a new type of monitor is going to be released soon, maybe I should wait." With such an attitude, one may as well wait for ever.

Instead of thinking how much one could have by waiting, it would make more sense to consider how much could one lose by postponing the purchase. PCs are production tools, provided, naturally, they are efficiently used. Work done on PCs is invaluable. In businesses, questions about the feasibility of using computers are not asked anymore. Even at home, the importance of being computer literate now outweighs any other consideration. The more one waits and the more one loses in terms of business,

chip talk



missed opportunities, experience, computer awareness, and so on.

Prices will keep falling and nobody can see the end of it for the time being. Hardware will keep changing, improving. I personally have had to replace my hard disk at home three times this year: From 250 MB (megabytes or million characters) in January, up to 520 MB in August and finally 1 GB (one gigabit or one billion bytes) this December.

To put it simply: The best time to buy a PC or any PC-related product is now. Therefore if any questions are left to resolve, it shouldn't be about when to buy but rather what to buy and how much to spend. One should also be prepared to re-invest, on a yearly basis, the equivalent of about 25 per cent of the initial purchase value, in order to upgrade a PC and keep it up-to-date. This doesn't include brand new, additional products or special options.

Such a somewhat sad state of affairs, doesn't worry businesses too much for they usually consider that the machines are money generating. In the worst case, their office equipment is legally depreciated over a five-year period. As for private, home users, those who do not buy PCs for direct profit making, many of them now think of optimising their investment — or reducing their expenditure if one prefers — by offering limited but paid services, in order to help them maintain their computer system "alive." They usually propose to do printouts for friends, process mailing lists for small companies or maintain small data bases for anyone who may need it. A wise way of making the PC support itself.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

STRANGE BUT TRUE

- * If a man's weight is 72.7 kg on earth, it becomes 18-kg at a height of 6,400-km. but on the moon he weighs 1.7-kg only.
- * Saturn 5 rockets which were chiefly built for lunar travels, are 110 metres long.
- * In Melbourne, Australia, a dog called "Lal" had been trained to perform jobs such as playing certain tunes, barking and producing words like "Hello" and "No". If given letters, it would rearrange them in a way so as to form its own name.
- * There are more than 300 kinds of ice-cream sold at various world markets.
- * Some rivers run underground. There is, for example, a river under the Nile that carries 12 times the quantity of water the Nile river would carry.

* * * * *

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- You must learn Arabic, mustn't you?
Yajib ann tata'allam al-loghal arabiya, alaysa kazalek?
- Yes, it's the language of the Glorious Qur'an.
Na'am, innaha loghatul Qur'anil majeed.
- Is there a watchmaker in this street?
Hal yoojad sa'ati fez haza ash'shari?
- Yes, there is one on the left side of that store.
Na'am, honaka waahidon alai janibil asyur lizalikal makh'zan.
- Will you direct me to this address?
Hal laka ann tor'shidani el-hazal onwan?
- With pleasure, sir.
Bekolli soroor, ya sayeedi.
- Where do you wish to go?
Ayna toored ann taz'hab?
- To the royal palaces.
Elal qusoor al-malakiya.
- Call a taxi and tell the driver to wait.
Otdob taxi wa qollis-sa'iq ann yantazir.
- Do you want more?
Hal toored mazaez?
- No, thanks. That's quite enough.
La, shukran, Haza yakfi.
- Can you tell me where I can find a good restaurant?
Hal yominoka ann tokh'birani ayna astati'ann ajida mat'aman jay'yedan?
- In the heart of the city.
Fee qabil madeena.

* * * * *

INVITATION TO LAUGHTER

- * A photographer's fair wife gave birth to a black baby. Stunned by the news, the husband cried: "What a devil! I haven't given it enough light."

* * * * *

- * LADY: "I have lost my dog today, officer OFFICER: "It isn't my business. I recommend you to advertise in the newspapers."

LADY: "Advertise in the papers? My dog doesn't read or write."

* * * * *

- * — ".....But I love you so much. I adore you and wish you could accept my proposal for marriage."
- "How can you prove you really love me?"
- "I'll drive myself into the fire for your sake, throw myself in the midst of water and hurriedly climb the ladder to..."

X		÷		= 3
X	+		+	= 4
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X		-		= 5
= 3	= 5		= 8	

Happiness is being a small white fish in the dark

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeeen

I was listening the other day to one of those radio wildlife programmes which, given a chance, actually leave you better informed. This one featured several men chatting in a cave about some white, eyeless fish-like creature which tends to lurk in watery pockets in the dark corners of caves. It was some casual phrase like "this little animal has been here since the age of the dinosaurs and has survived quite unchanged" which caught my ear. Apparently, it does not need light and does not need anything else much either, except water and enough nutrient in the scummy film on top of the water. It has survived for millions of years without ever doing any of those things that separate human beings from other animals, such as singing carols at Christmas, playing chess, going outdoors and pretending that going to discos is fun, or indeed, without doing anything much.

A simple life, you might think. Not so, said one of the experts. This is one of the most specialised animals he had ever come across. It was then that I suddenly realised that this eyeless white fish's speciality was just that: Being an eyeless white fish.

It was perfectly adapted to its surroundings. Being in the dark no longer bothered it. It had all the food it wanted. All the liquid. It seemed to have no enemies. It had no ambitions to have things it could not have. It was not happy, but presumably it had no concept of happiness and therefore did not mind not being happy, which is as close as you can get to being happy for an eyeless white fish.

This was a species that had evolved as far as it

needed or wanted to go and had refused all improvement grants since the day the dinosaurs had disappeared. By comparison with it, human beings are very unspecialised. We do lots of things and we do most of them badly, and the few that we do well (singing carols at Christmas, ice dancing, inventing ways of recording sound, combating hair loss) are either not worth doing or somewhat outside the demands of evolution.

Anyway, a day or two later I found myself watching a French programme on television in which I learnt that "every day 1,600,000 vehicles enter Paris. There are only 1,500,000 parking spaces in Paris."

What does this tell us about the white eyeless fish, as compared to man? The white eyeless fish would be way out ahead. It has achieved everything it set out to do, as far as cave dwelling is concerned. It has never known a parking problem. Man, on the other hand, is creating problems the further he progresses. Through over-population, pollution and idiocy, he is managing to affect all advances he has made. He invents cooking and then litters the world with McDonald's restaurants.

We are told that global warming has resumed and we may be on the way to mopping up the planet terminally, not just for humans, but for every living species. Human beings have turned out to be very good at having fun, but not at clearing up after themselves, or conserving the environment, which means that all forms of life will be doomed. Except, probably, for that white eyeless fish down in the caves. While everything disappears quietly upstairs, it will be, without knowing it, the most intelligent form of life left alive.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 15

- 7:30 N.B.A.
- 8:30 Road To Avonlea
- 9:10 Tequila And Bonetti
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:20 Feature Film
- 12:00 The Investigator

A couple of tricksters is pursued by the police after being charged with robbery.

Friday, Dec. 16

- 7:30 Hollywood Stuntmakers
- 8:00 African Skies
- 8:30 You Bet Your Life
- 9:00 P.M. Magazine
- 9:30 Heart Of Courage
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:20 Blanche

Blanche comes to odds with the widespread corruption between the church and the land authorities as she attempts to provide settlers with proper medical care.

Saturday, Dec. 17

- 7:30 Harry And The Hendersons
- 8:00 Innovation
- Educational Programme

An educational programme on the four mathematical dimensions. The programme also highlights how much computers are instrumental in realising the fourth dimension.

- 8:30 Quantum Leap
- 9:10 Murder She Wrote
- Who Killed JB Fletcher

Several crimes occur after a woman connives at her lover's attempts to achieve illegally material gains.

- 10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Fire Storm

Starring: Levan Burton & Jill Clayburgh

A considerable loss in lives and property occurs as a result of a big fire which breaks out in Oakland.

- 12:00 Major Dad

Sunday, Dec. 18

- 7:30 McHale's Navy

Purple Heart For Gurber

After they claim to have sunk a Japanese submarine in the Pacific Ocean, the Marines are assigned to go there again to sink another one.

- 8:00 The Album Show

- 8:30 Quantum Leap

- 9:10 Galactica

- 10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Foreign Affairs

Starring: Joanne Woodward & Brian Dennehy

The film is an entertaining and touching love story of a quiet and reserved college professor and an outspoken and uneducated peasant who, despite being perfect opposites, ultimately learn how to attract.

12:00 The Upper Hand

Monday, Dec. 19

- 7:30 Black Beauty
- 8:00 Boogies Diner
- Home Sweet Home

A homeless woman receives support despite having secretly used the store as a night shelter.

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Shades Of L.A.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Grushko

With scant resources and a little respect from a cynical public, General Grushko attempts to track down a crime gang dealing in nuclear contaminated meat.

Tuesday, Dec. 20

- 7:30 F.B.I.: The Untold Stories

- 8:00 Guide To The Universe

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Cracking The Code

Freedom In The Genes

Is behaviour inherited? This programme explains why man is largely his own master with the aid of the world's largest gathering of twins, English sheepdogs and trained flies.

10:00 News In English

10:20 First Circle

As a result of the attempted treason which was uncovered, Stalin orders two imprisoned scientists to invent a new system for deciphering codes.

Wednesday, Dec. 21

7:30 Home Improvement

Wild Kingdom

Tim pretends he doesn't fear snakes after he finds one in his house.

8:00 Life In The Freezer

The Race To Space

The programme is a view on some microscopic animals which, though frozen in winter, melt, feed, and breed during a brief period of 24-hour daylight.

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Law And Order

Forgiveness

The police investigates the murder of a girl who was severely beaten on the head.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Snowy River

Fathers And Sons

Matt aided by his son Robbie attempts to regain horses previously stolen from the stockade.

11:10 Coming Of Age

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lark

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PREVIEW

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old college professor and

educated peasant who, despite

it, ultimately learn how to

The Upper Hand

day, Dec. 19

Black Beauty

Boogies Diner

Sweet Home

receives support despite having

one as a night shelter

Quantum Leap

Shades Of L.A.

News In English

0.20 Grushko

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real Grushko, and not to make

adults in higher, the

way, Dec. 20

The Untold Stories

Go To The Universe

Quantum Leap

locking The Code

way, Dec. 21

The Untold Stories

Go To The Universe

Quantum Leap

A Law And Order

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The Untold Stories

Go To The Universe

Quantum Leap

A Law And Order

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The Untold Stories

Go To The Universe

Quantum Leap

A Law And Order

way, Dec. 24

The Untold Stories

Go To The Universe

Quantum Leap

A Law And Order

way, Dec. 25

The Untold Stories

Go To The Universe

Quantum Leap

A Law And Order

way, Dec. 26

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Go To The Universe

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The Untold Stories

Go To The Universe

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Quantum Leap

A Law And Order

way, Dec. 50

The Untold Stories

Go To The Universe

Quantum Leap

A Law And Order

New drugs may help asthma sufferers

By Ben Hirschler
Reuter

LONDON — Asthma is on the rise worldwide, aggravated by growing air pollution and allergies.

There is no true cure for this most common chronic condition, affecting an estimated three to five per cent of people, but a clutch of new drugs are now in development which doctors believe may improve treatment.

At present asthma is treated mainly with bronchodilators to relieve airway constriction, and — increasingly — with inhaled steroids which tackle the underlying inflammation of the bronchial tubes which causes asthma.

But while steroids are effective, worries remain about their possible side effects. Last month, a

2,000 signature petition was presented to the British government urging a no-fault compensation scheme amid claims about the drugs.

Dr. Neil Thomson, an asthma expert at Glasgow's Western Infirmary, says there is no evidence that low-dose inhaled steroids are harmful. But it is not clear just where the safe limit lies.

For the last decade, the hunt has been on for alternatives. Now the first new drugs are nearing the market.

Their common goal is to target specific inflammation "mediators". Steroids, by contrast, suppress virtually every step of the inflammatory process, making them rather blunt pharmacological tools.

The companies making the new compounds — which can be swallowed as

pills rather than inhaled — hope they will cut the need for steroids in mild to moderate asthma patients, who make up the bulk of sufferers.

First to reach the market will be a group of drugs which inhibit production of leukotrienes, naturally-occurring substances implicated in causing inflammation.

U.S.-based Abbott Laboratories' 5-lipoxygenase inhibitor, Zileuton, filed for regulatory approval in September, does this by blocking the biosynthesis of leukotrienes.

The British Zeneca Group, meanwhile, has a different drug — selective leukotriene D4 antagonist, called Accolate — which is due for filing early in 1995.

Both drugs could be approved in 1996, phar-

maceutical analysis believe, but Accolate may have an advantage since it will be offered in a low dose regime of just one tablet a day, against three a day for Zileuton.

A follow-up compound from Smithkline Beecham (SB) called Panlukast is a year behind Accolate in development in the U.S. and Europe, although it has already been filed for approval in Japan by SB's partner Ono Pharmaceuticals.

Further off, several firms including Rhone-Poulenc Rorer, Smithkline and Syntex are working on selective phosphodiesterase (PDE4) inhibitors, regarded by many researchers as the most promising new anti-asthma drug class.

The most advanced oral PDE4 is made by the British biotechnology com-

pany Celltech Group and goes under the code-name CDP-544. It is being developed with Merck and Co. and is now in phase II clinical trials.

Other drugs focusing on different mediators include platelet activating factor (PAF) antagonists, such as British Biotech's Lexipafant, being developed with Glaxo, and thromboxane antagonists, like Bayer's Bay-U-3405.

Another class of compounds, still at the research stage in several companies' portfolios, are potassium channel activators. Thomson says it has yet to be proved whether any of these drugs will consistently outperform inhaled steroids across a broad range of patients. As a result, he sees them supplementing rather than re-

placing steroids — at least initially.

"Steroids are a tough nut to crack. They work very well and in normal doses they don't have serious side effects," he said.

Changing role for nurses in Africa

By Rebecca Dodd

judices.

LONDON — As the AIDS epidemic advances, huge numbers of young people — usually the healthiest age group — are falling ill and health services in the developing world, already stretched to the limit, face a crisis.

Most countries have said that they will not be able to take care of everyone with AIDS. Instead, many are opting for a system of "home-based" or community care.

As AIDS usually strikes those in their most productive years, the families' main needs are often economic. When the chief breadwinners becomes too sick to work, nurses might link families with charities or development groups willing to help out with school fees, credit and finding alternative sources of income.

For most nurses this is a natural and essential extension of their work. Poverty, they say, has a direct impact on health. If a family lacks access to water and proper sanitation, the house is more likely to harbour infection such as TB. If food is scarce, the patient will get weaker.

Home-based care also helps to prevent further spread of HIV. Regular home visits give nurses the opportunity to promote safe-sex messages to patients, families and friends. And having an AIDS sufferer in the community provides the next generation with direct evidence of the consequences of not heeding that message — Panos features.

Sordid drugs tale pulls no punches

By Charles Whelan
Agence France Presse

PARIS — In the same week that 11 top Chinese competitors were condemned as drug cheats, a sordid little movie opened here.

Dernier Stade may not be the greatest movie of its genre, as one French film critic claimed, but film-maker Christian Zerbib pulls no punches. The only unconvincing part is the final disclaimer: "Any connection with real life is unintentional."

Cut to the action: A parody of the Marseillaise plays as Catherine Delauney, 800 metres champion of France, inserts a pouch of "clean" urine into her vagina to enable her to pass a random dope test.

In the next scene Delauney weeps with joy as the Marseillaise blares out and she is crowned European champion.

Zerbib's low-budget film depicts the destruction of sport by drugs with the collusion of top athletics officials and sponsors.

Money is the root of all evil here. Delauney is champion and French record holder, thanks to drugs. She gets a house, car and cash from her sponsor, one of France's biggest banks.

"Break your own record, we double the money," the bank says. "Win the European Championship and we pour it all over you."

Delauney, played by Anne Richard, undergoes a regime of doping which broadly reflects current practice in athletics and includes male hormone injections, masking agents, blood doping and even pregnancy, the most natural way to boost hormone levels and oxygen retention.

According to the French Sports Ministry, the

some 8,000 dope tests were carried out on French athletes last year, 160 or 1.6 per cent of them positive. Drug abuse were prevalent throughout athletics for international level down to the most modest provincial competition.

But Zerbib's inspiration for the film was not France. On April 9, 1987, East Germany heptathlete Birgit Dressler complained of a pain in her back. The following day she was dead — victim of an ambitious coach, an unscrupulous doctor, and a lethal cocktail of drugs. Dressler was 26 and in one season — her last — rose 100 places in the world ranking.

"I wanted to know why what woman died," said Zerbib. "The tale is all too familiar."

The film follows one season in the life of a top French athlete. At the start Delauney is beaten in the French Cham-

pionships by a runner on drugs. She vows revenge, finds her ambitious coach and unscrupulous doctor, and never has to lose again.

France has yet to have its Ben Johnson scandal, or a collective slap in the face like the Chinese, but the film has touched a raw nerve in the Sports Ministry and the Athletics Federation.

The French have long looked down from the moral high ground at drug scandals elsewhere, notably in the United States, the former Soviet Bloc and Britain.

Not any more. Zerbib's film opened the day after publication of a new report on drug abuse in teenage sport.

Two sports medicine specialists polled 2,423 high school students in southern France and found nearly 10 per cent would take performance-enhancing drugs and one

in 50 were already doing so.

"They know it goes on at the highest levels in sports, so they think why not," said Philippe Turbillin, one of the specialists.

A Sports Ministry spokesman described the findings as shocking and said: "The risk is that there will be a drug-abuse explosion and we will get into the situation described in *Dernier Stade*."

But according to athletes themselves,

France is already there. *Dernier Stade*, itself a play on words which could translate as "The End Of The Road," does not go far enough.

To depict the protagonist, Anne Richard had to train for three years under French coaches, competing alongside athletes in international events.

"The athletes thanked us for doing the movie," she said. "They were only sorry it didn't show how bad things really are."

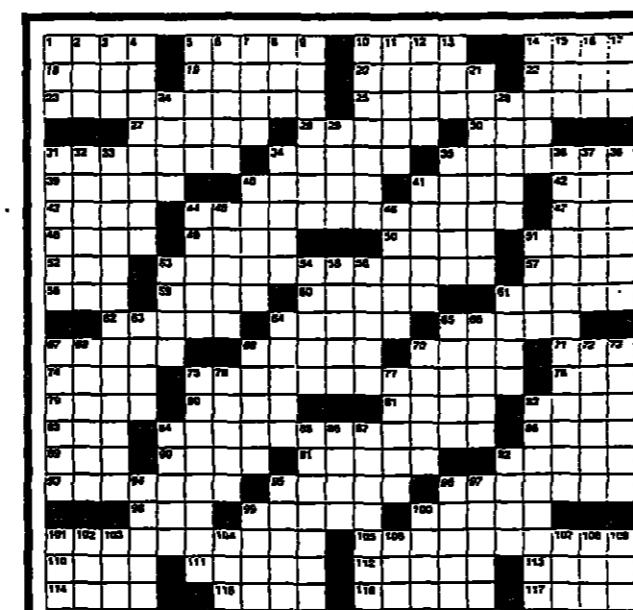
'AIDS vaccine could be in wide use by 2000'

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

THINGS TO DO
By Don Johnson

ACROSS
1. Yogi's target
2. Greek potter
3. Devon
4. Loyal subject to a monarch
5. Loyal subject to a monarch
6. St. George
7. St. George
8. Devil's advocate
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Last Week's Cryptograms
1. Imbued with jealousy, some local jazz musicians have the worrisome old blues on a noisy, raucous chase.
2. Why did pro football player's aches and kicks go away when his backfield gets realigned.
3. Biggest bane of both home gardener and farmer is root rot.
4. Cranky skier makes many easy tracks: Sitzmarks!

CRYPTOGRAMS
1.G DELUN PURPY NCHEN RE DLBC FLS
PEEKZET DIGHOLE OPSGET IGY FLAKET
GE OZ TPAZCE. —By Ed Huddleston

2.TEL JMAQHCACJ MYTQJ DE SACK HQS
XATTAMR CKEC TERQJ ITDHS BAXJ IYLPQ
EHL IQPP. —By Earl Ireland

3.NEWEIND PHONO ITS ESKUEHZM WL
KEEZEMTIE TSNETU DE ASNEWS TIREP
EAOEZSWS. —By Frank N. Stein

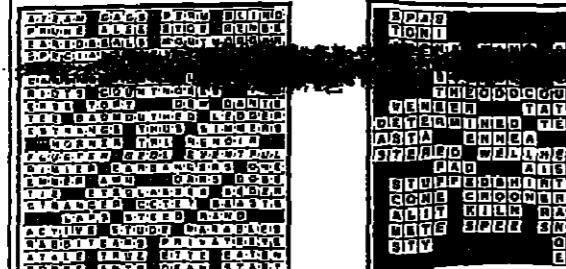
4.IMP QUAG: REP INQ PLUG LQ ZECQLQB
PUGUCO SUMO AMYU. BRRP QUAG: OSU
SHILPLOK AMG YUCK ERA. —By Duane E. McCay

Diagramless 19 x 19
By Harold Counts

ACROSS
1. Woes of grief
2. Dearly dear
3. Dearly dear
4. Take root
5. Head's up
7. Skew
8. Head's up
10. Prolonged
11. Head's up

DOWN
1. Sharp peak
2. Headache
3. Headache
4. Take root
5. Head's up
7. Skew
8. Head's up
10. Prolonged
11. Head's up
12. Headache
13. Headache
14. Headache
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16. Headache
17. Headache
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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



PARIS (AFP) — An effective vaccine against the AIDS virus HIV could be in widespread use in developing countries where the AIDS incidence is high.

"We would have to have a much higher effectiveness level to make it worthwhile in developed countries like France or the United States," he said.

Professor Lars Kallings, secretary-general of the International AIDS Society, said that if tests due to be carried out over the next few years give good results, vaccine programmes could be launched in developing countries before the year 2000.

"That is at best, if everything turns out well," Prof. Kallings told AFP in the sidelines of a one-day scientific conference on the pandemic, ahead of the first international political summit on AIDS here.

Speaking after a session devoted entirely to the question of the search for an AIDS vaccine, he said a "general vaccination programme" would target initially young girls and pregnant women in developing countries.

"We have identified high risk groups comprising some 350 million people in Africa, Asia and Latin America who would initially be subject to the programme.

The aim would be to vaccinate young girls before they become sexually active, say at the age of 10 or 12, in a schools vaccination programme similar to that for measles or polio."

He said the scale of the programme would depend on the results of vaccination tests being carried out in countries like Thailand in the new few years.

"If the trials give a 45-50 per cent immunity, then I think we would go ahead," said Prof. Kallings, who is a scientific advisor to the Swedish government and formerly worked for the World Health Organisation (WHO). Above all the session was dominated however by optimism that a vaccine can be developed.

"There are difficult hurdles to overcome, it is a daunting task, but that should not prevent us from taking the challenge," said Professor William Paul of the National Institute of Health in Maryland, who chaired the session.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. a- A duck's cry; fraudulent doctor.
b- To promise; an unhappy condition.
c- To put seed in soil; a female pig.
d- Not fresh; a horse's urine.
e- Cattle; tidy.

★ ★ ★ ★

2. STETHOSCOPE: Used by a doctor so as to hear the sound of the heartbeat.

LACTOMETER: Used for measuring the relative density of milk.

SCALPEL: Used by doctors in operation. (A small delicate knife)

CALORIMETER: Used for measuring the quantities of heat.

SEXTANT: Used for measurement of angular distances between two objects.

★ ★ ★ ★

3. a- Jump
b- Abraham Lincoln
c- Waterloo
d- Lithium
e- Assassinated — Lee Harvey Oswald —

★ ★ ★ ★

4. It is a corruption of "God be with you."

★ ★ ★ ★

5. The words that contain all vowels in their order, are:

ABSTEMIOUS and FACETIOUS.

Some other words but not in natural order, are:

AUTHORITATIVE, DISADVANTAGEOUS,

EFFICACIOUS, ENCOURAGING

IMPORTUNATE and INSTANTANEOUS.

★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

(A) 44. Divide 5½ by the difference between 7½ and 3½.

★ ★ ★ ★

Features

King urges umma to unite

(Continued from page 1)

ection with the sole purpose of pleasing God Almighty. "We will do our duty towards the shrines in the name of the nation until its status has been determined: in an acceptable and appropriate manner," said the King.

"In this context I would say that we do not accept any party's sovereignty over the Holy Places except that of God Almighty and we will not at the same time diminish the right of our Palestinian brothers to regain their rights in the city but we would rather back their endeavours and their rights."

Among challenges facing the Muslim nations, the King noted, were backwardness, hunger and regression at a time when the Islamic nations' wealth was being drained.

He said the Islamic nation ought to put an end to all these atrocities.

"I would like to propose to our conference to work in the coming years to put together an integrated plan that would deal with the nation's most chronic issues with the aim of preserving the nation's dignity and wealth and right," said the King.

He said that the nation faces the challenge of presenting the bright image of Islam to the outside world and removing all elements that tend to distort Islam which faces a brutal onslaught from its enemies.

The King suggested that the Muslim countries resort to spreading Islamic culture and seek to attain sublime goals in line with the teachings of the Holy Quran.

"As we are advocates of peace, justice and understanding, we cannot accept any form of malice and hatred in all forms that appear in the ugliest manner in the massacres committed in the name of God," he said.

The King noted that Jordan was not competing with the Palestinians over the custodianship of the holy places, stressing that it will support them as it has always done.

Until they regain their full rights on their national soil.

He said the attendance of

the King at the conference

is to pay tribute to the

spirit of the conference

and the spirit of the

conference.

Home-based care also

helps to prevent further

spread of HIV. Regular

home visits give nurses

opportunities to promote

safe sex messages to

patients. Patients and

friends are given AIDS

information in the community

and the next generation

of the community is

being educated to break

the chain of transmission.

Patricia features

Tal denies charges

(Continued from page 1)

its legality, like an unfamiliar procedure," Mr. Tal said.

Former President of the Court of Cassation, Abdul Karim Muath concurred. "It is nothing but illusions," he said in response to reports that attributed his resignation to his disapproval of the government's interference in judicial affairs.

Mr. Muath said that he resigned due to "ill-health" and that speculation over his resignation was "blown out of all proportion by the press."

But it was the resignation of Judge Na'asan that caused a greater controversy.

The former president of the Higher Judicial Council was quoted as saying that he could not tolerate the situation anymore.

Asked by the Jordan Times about the reason behind his resignation only a month after he took over from Mr. Muath, the judge replied that "all that Shihani published was accurate, except for my resignation's relevance to the Mu' (trial) case."

S. Ian, the weekly tabloid, had attributed Judge Na'asan's resignation to his intolerance of the government's interference in the judiciary and quoted him as saying that "such a precedent will not happen again." The judge's resignation, however, was also linked to the Mutah case whereby the tabloid reports that Mr. Na'asan refused Mr. Tal's request to speed up the Mutah case which was referred to the Court of Cassation which at the time was headed by the judge.

Earlier this year, a number of Mutah University students were found guilty by the State Security Court of attempted assassination of His Majesty King Hussein during a planned visit to the university; the defendants filed for an appeal which was automatically referred to the Court of Cassation. Nine months have passed since the appeal was filed and the court has not yet reviewed the case.

The delay in the case's presentation prompted parents of the accused to campaign against the government, particularly Mr. Tal, blaming it for the delay.

By Susan Watts and
Tom Wilkie

Simple tests that reveal the genetic inheritance a child receives from its parents could create "the lepers of the 21st century" — people shunned by society because of their DNA.

Unless proper regulations are introduced to control testing for genetic disease, the new technologies of DNA analysis could do more harm than good. Researchers and, significantly, the support groups for people and families affected by genetic disease are increasingly concerned about the impact of uncontrolled genetic screening.

In December 1993, the Nuffield Council of Bioethics issued a report urging the government to bring in safeguards on genetic screening "protect individuals and their families against the misuse of confidential information, the risk of social stigma and the possibilities of eugenic abuse." Nothing has been done.

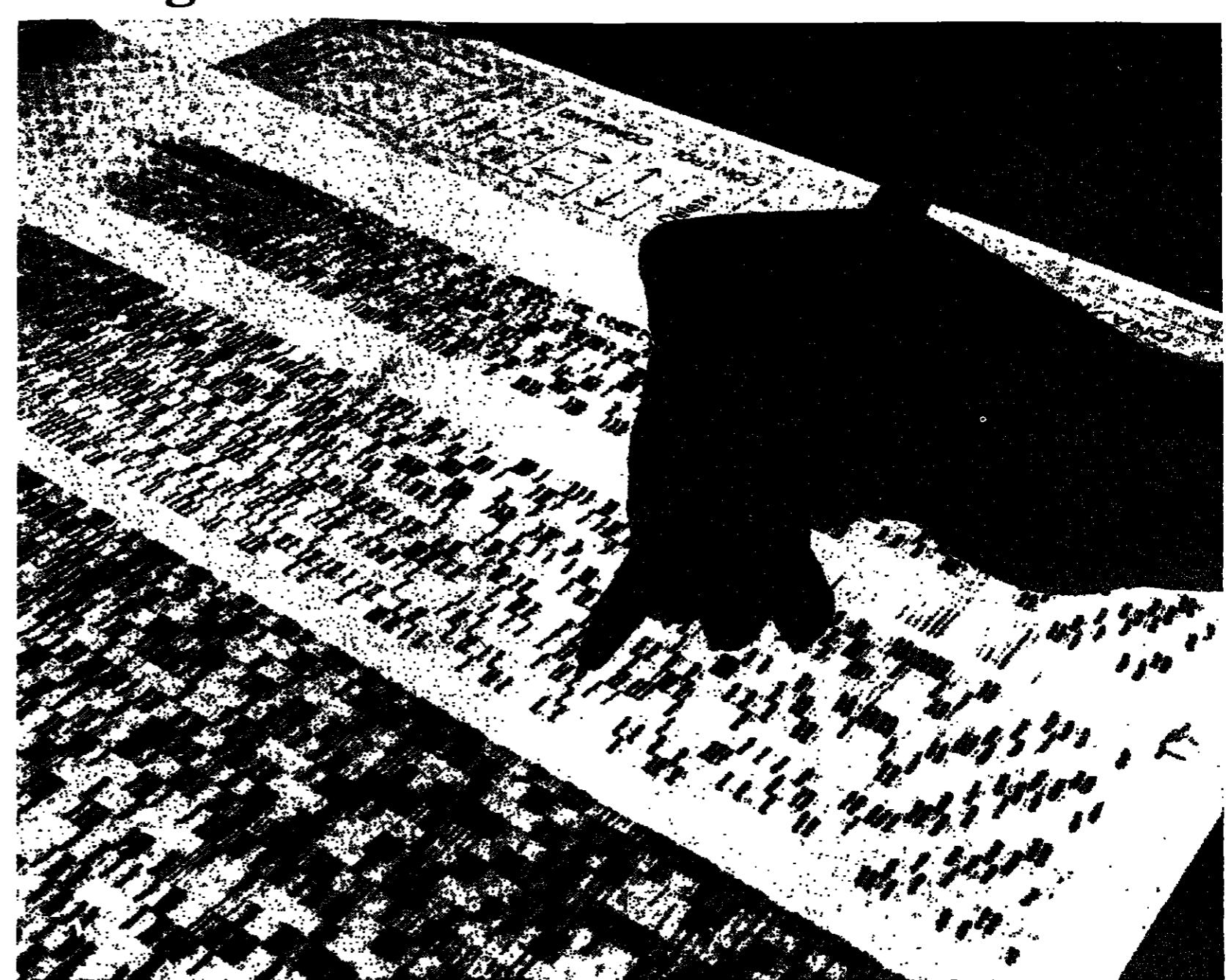
Researchers are discovering a new human gene almost weekly. The genes responsible for many of the most important inherited diseases have been analysed. In 1986, two American scientists, Tony Monaco and Louis Kunkel, identified the gene responsible for Duchenne muscular dystrophy — the first triumph of the modern techniques of DNA analysis. It was followed three years later by the gene for cystic fibrosis — the commonest single gene defect among northern Europeans. In the past year, the genes for Huntington's disease and a form of inherited breast cancer have been isolated.

Once the gene is found, it is relatively easy to test people to see if they have the gene and run the risk of having children who will suffer from the disease. Often researchers or their employers have patented their discovery, with the aim of making money out of marketing tests to the general population.

Such tests could create "a genetic underclass — the lepers of the 21st century," says Sue Watkin of the Huntington's Disease Association. Mrs. Watkin was addressing a meeting in London last week organised by the Genetic Interest Group (GIG), a charity that brings together all the support groups for people and families affected by genetic disease.

GIG and the support groups welcome the advances being made in understanding inherited disease. To indicate

Creating a new breed of social outcasts



A print-out of DNA information. It's uncontrolled screening worries people affected by genetic disease

individuals and families affected by genetic conditions, these advances hold hope for treatment where none existed before, but they want to ensure the new knowledge is applied to benefit affected people and families.

Mrs. Watkin worries that employers and insurance companies might require people to undergo genetic testing. She cited the case of a family whose father had died of cancer at the age of 50, before exhibiting the symptoms of progressive degeneration of the brain resulting from the Huntington's disease gene he carried. His children carried on unaware that they had a 50 per cent risk of developing the disease, went on to higher education and fulfilling careers. Would they have done so, she asked, had they known their risk status through a predictive test, say

one imposed by their father's employer?

People with inherited disorders are already being discriminated against, says Michael Turner of the Family Heart Association. "We have an example of someone who wanted to join the army. It rejected him on medical grounds, as did the fire service. 'Others have to pay high motor insurance premiums,' which Dr. Turner feels is particularly unfair because people who are diagnosed and treated with drugs are less of a risk than those who are unaware of their condition. And 92 per cent of those with inherited high levels of blood cholesterol have not been diagnosed, he says.

Screening for genetic diseases can do more harm than good, says Bernadette Modell of University College Hospital, London. "It can damage people's healthy self-image or their image of a healthy baby." All newborn babies have a spot of blood taken from their heels and blotted on to a card soon after birth. Dr. Modell told the conference. This "Guthrie spot" is analysed for the inherited disease PKU as part of a comprehensive and effective genetic screening programme.

But in Sweden, Dr. Modell says, researchers used the Guthrie spots as part of a screening programme for alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency, which carries with it a susceptibility to lung disease. This is not strictly a genetic disease, but children who have inherited the genes are very vulnerable to environmental pollutants. In the Swedish programme, the parents of such children were told to stop smoking.

Then a follow-up study showed the parents were smoking more. They were angry because they had not been consulted, nor their permission sought, for the tests.

They had not been properly informed or counselled about the significance of the condition.

The parents were left,

child who inherits both damaged copies.

At the last moment, the pathologists were dissuaded from carrying out the tests. One geneticist remarked: "It had not occurred to them what they were going to tell the infants." Nor had they thought through why the children should be tested or what their parents would do with the information.

Sources have told the Independent that Britain came close to repeating the Swedish mistake. Pathologists in one NHS hospital were so entranced by the power of new techniques for amplifying and analysing tiny samples of DNA that they proposed to search through Guthrie spots in their hospital records to identify children who carried the gene for cystic fibrosis. A child who inherits two copies of the damaged gene — one from their mother and their father — will suffer from the disease. But diagnosing cystic fibrosis does not need DNA analysis. People who inherit one copy of the gene, rather than two, are perfectly healthy and do not have any ill effects. Problems arise only if they should meet and marry another symptomless carrier, in which case they have a one in four chance of conceiving a

child who inherits both damaged copies.

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One geneticist remarked: "It had not occurred to them what they were going to tell the infants." Nor had they thought through why the children should be tested or what their parents would do with the information.

Alastair Kent, the director of the Genetic Interest Group, welcomes the Select Committee's investigation. "There is a need for an appropriate and effective regulatory regime." But, he stresses it must be open and transparent. He contrasts the secrecy of the British Gene Therapy Advisory Committee with the openness of the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee, which holds public hearings and publishes its agenda and decisions.

Mr. Kent feels organisations offering genetic testing, or companies stipulating that someone should undergo a genetic test, must pay for proper counselling, support and follow-up.

The Independent.

Bulgarian ex-communists prepare for election win

By Philippa Fletcher
Renter

SOFIA — In 1990, as democratic change swept Eastern Europe, Bulgaria brought the world up short by voting its former communist party back into power.

Now, after a brief flirt with the opposition, it appears to be about to do it again.

As the campaign for Sunday's parliamentary election

draws to a close, opinion polls give the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) which changed its name from communist in 1990, a clear lead over its main rival, the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF).

The fiercely anti-communist UDF, which alleges the polls are manipulated, is counting on a last-minute rally of support to help it repeat the victory it scored in 1991.

But it is badly split, while the former communists are

riding, like their counterparts in Hungary and Poland before them, on a wave of disappointment and nostalgia with painful economic and political change.

The feeling is especially strong among the elderly, who dominate Bulgaria's shrinking population and have suffered badly from a sharp inflationary jump this year when delays in market reform began to take their toll.

Bulgarian pensioners danced and sang in the streets at a rally in a run-down part of Sofia on Saturday morning while socialist candidates handed out bread and wine and toasted an election victory which has yet to be sealed.

The leftist appeal is not restricted to the elderly.

"We're in fashion," boasts

a pre-election poster for the party's youth wing featuring a

young couple, back to back, staring dreamily into the distance.

One young socialist Ivan Yankov, whose haircut and clothes fit the slogan on the poster, says his socialist leanings are natural in a state where the elite was loyal to the old regime.

Leading socialist Nora Ananieva told a recent news conference the church, schools and media should be roped in to bring back the moral values which had been lost amid waves of crime and consumerism.

Most of his fellow-students do not share his views, but that does not bother him. "Most of them will not vote. They supported the UDF but it lied to them," he said.

The socialists have successfully managed to lay the blame for the corruption and lawlessness which have characterised Bulgaria's transition at the door of the UDF, despite the fact that both sides are tarred by allegations of corruption.

Away from Sofia, in a largely rural society where the benefits of capitalism have yet to penetrate, people give other reasons for voting socialist.

In the western town of Targovishte, where United Nations sanctions have blocked trade, locals say the former communists have the support of young and old because of their pledge to halve unemployment.

The only thing that keeps us going at the moment is petrol smuggling," says one man, part of the wave of petty sanctions-busters who punch new holes in the embargo each day.

The socialists say they will seek to boost ties with Serbia, step up pressure on the West to lift sanctions and push for compensation for billions of dollar lost trade.

They have also made the most of a longing for the

strict law and order of communist Bulgaria and popular support for the Orthodox Church despite the fact that it was sidelined and muffled by the old regime.

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fantasy

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Israelis hope to attract South Korean business

Rabin calls in Japanese to be economic partners

TOKYO (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Wednesday called on Japan to step up its trade relations with the Jewish state and become a closer economic partner.

"We want and we recommend a change of attitude on the part of the government of Japan and the business community of Japan," Mr. Rabin said at a luncheon meeting with Japanese business leaders.

"Look at us as a partner in business. We ask for nothing more than that," Mr. Rabin said. "European and Japanese companies should no longer fear the Arab boycott."

Japan is sensitive to relations with Arab countries as it depends on the Arab World for 70 per cent of its oil supplies.

Economic data show that trade relations between Israel

and the Far East, in particular Japan, are becoming closer.

Exports to Japan rose 18 per cent in the first nine months of 1994 to \$681 million, according to the Israeli-Japan Chamber of Commerce.

Imports fell 14 per cent to \$360 million, mainly because of the yen's appreciation.

In 1994, Asia was Israel's fastest growing market, with exports jumping 33 per cent in the first nine months, according to the Japanese finance ministry. Asia accounts for 12.4 per cent of Israel's exports, up from 8.1 per cent in 1992.

Tokyo has pledged a total of \$200 million towards the start-up costs of Palestinian self-rule, of which roughly half has already been provided.

While expressing his thanks for the financial support for the peace process,

Mr. Rabin said: "We believe that Japan, as one of the giants of the world economy, should be involved even deeper than that."

The Japanese business community seems to agree that there is room to improve economic ties between the two countries.

Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of the Japan Federation of Economic Organisations, said at the luncheon meeting: "In the economic arena, trade between Japan and Israel is steadily increasing."

"Unfortunately, however, Japanese direct investment in Israel and other Middle Eastern nations is currently not all that active," Mr. Toyoda said.

But with an eye to future business relations between Japan and the Jewish state, the federation sent a mission to Israel in April, 1993. This October, the Japan Association of Corporate Executives

also sent a study mission to Israel.

En route to Seoul, Israeli business leaders said they would urge their South Korean counterparts to set up Middle East headquarters in Israel.

Danny Gillerman, head of Israel's Federation of Chambers of Commerce, told Israeli radio by telephone that he and others on Mr. Rabin's mission hoped to persuade South Koreans to seize on the opportunities created by Middle East peace moves.

"Primarily we would like to transit or to convey to our partners both in Japan and in Korea the excitement, the bullishness, which we as Israeli business leaders and Israeli businessmen feel as far as what the opportunities are in Israel in the wake of the peace process," Mr. Gillerman said.

"We would like to have them come to Israel, explore the possibilities, set up operations in Israel and make Israel their regional base for their Middle Eastern and regional activities and we believe this is a very real possibility," he said.

Asked about his delegation's goals in South Korea, Mr. Gillerman said: "We will be looking into signing agreements both with our economic organisations, with our chambers of commerce, exchanging database, encouraging more trade delegations between the two countries."

Israel hopes to deepen economic ties with the remnants of the Arab boycott fall. The Gulf war marked a turning point as Middle East peacemaking moved toward. Now the Arab League has lifted its secondary embargo on companies doing business with Israel.

A decade ago, Subaru was

the only Japanese car maker willing to sell cars to Israel. Today, Japanese and Korean cars are grabbing market share from European and U.S. models.

Exports to South Korea totalled \$137 million in 1993, equal to the amount of imports, said Marie-France Yitzhak, deputy director of the Asia division at Israel's industry and trade ministry.

"The state of economic relations with South Korea has increased quite dramatically over the last few years," Mr. Gillerman said.

"Most of the major South Korean companies are now active in Israel, companies like Samsung, Lucky Goldstar, Daewoo, Daibatsu, Kia and others, and Hyundai, which is a giant South Korean company, and we feel that there is a lot of interest in South Korea in entering into Israel," he added.

Iran unveils 95/96 budget, sees \$14.3b income from oil exports

TEHRAN (R) — The Iranian government Tuesday unveiled its draft budget for 1995/96, more than a third bigger than the current year's and based on sharply higher oil revenue from lower crude exports.

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani presented to parliament the nominally balanced 95.3 trillion rial (\$54.5 billion at the official exchange rate) budget for the Iranian year starting March 21.

The budget ceiling is 36.5 per cent bigger than the current year's approved level, maintaining an upward trend linked by economists to double-digit inflation of the recent years.

In his speech to parliament, Mr. Rafsanjani castigated his critics for accusing the government of mishandling the economy, saying they magnified deep-rooted economic problems.

"Creating new capacities and continuing construction of the country entails suffering hardships at present. All those interested in the country's future should cooperate...otherwise the opportunity available for building up the country will slip away like so many chances before," he said.

The draft maintains the general shape of the budget in recent years: Oil exports form the bulk of state income, current expenditures outstrip capital outlays and some 60 per cent of the total budget goes to state industries and banks widely seen as inefficient enterprises which burden the public purse.

One difference is that it

envisages reducing Iran's foreign commitments as required by parliament, while the budgets of the past few years included foreign borrowing.

"As you wanted, we have put the rival equivalent of \$1.6 billion in the expenditures to reduce our foreign commitments," Mr. Rafsanjani told the deputies.

Parliamentary speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri estimated last month that Iran's foreign commitments — debt and import contracts signed but yet to be carried out — would reach \$33 billion by March.

The draft for government revenue, excluding the budget for state industries and banks, is set at 41.2 trillion riyals (\$23.5 billion), with oil exports contributing 61 per cent, taxes 19.1 per cent and other sources 19.9 per cent, Mr. Rafsanjani said.

That works out to an oil revenue of \$14.3 billion.

The current year's budget, drawn up at a time of depressed oil prices, envisaged \$10.15 billion of oil revenue.

Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh has said Iran's oil income was running 20 per cent above target in the first half of the year and hoped it would maintain the peace in the second half.

Mr. Rafsanjani said Iran's oil production capacity had reached 4.2 million barrels per day (b/d) in the current year and would stay at that level through March 1996.

He said Iran exported 2,343,000 b/d of crude in the first half of the current Iranian year and the figure was expected to drop to 2,235,000 b/d next year.

The fall in exports is due to rising domestic consumption while Iran's production is constrained by its 3.6 million b/d quota set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) through the end of 1995.

Mr. Rafsanjani said keeping a balanced budget was an overriding goal of the draft which also aimed at decentralisation, promoting social justice, supporting domestic production, boosting agriculture and curbing inflation in the long term.

He complained that domestic fuel consumption continued to rise, going up by an estimated 6.2 per cent to 167 million litres (44 million gallons) per day this year.

He said a parliamentary decision to double fuel prices from March 21 was "a good beginning but not enough" to curb the rise.

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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



unicef cards save lives

اشترِوا بطاقة واحدة ينقذ حياة طفل

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BOSEE
DUGEN
FLOUJY
EVVELT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: " " " " "

(Answer tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: SOGGY
Answer: What the successful realtor was known for — HIS GOOD DEEDS

10 DAYS LEFT for Christmas

The most sentimental present

DAJANI'S

Gold-Gems - House Presents etc. from JD 20. — (36% sale) Amra Hotel Shops. 6th Circle. Amman.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Even though you feel like it don't go flying off on a tangent today that will retard your progress. Today's double moon opposition and square to Mars will pass and everything will get on track.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Persevere at tasks ahead of you and don't permit some outside matter or person to take you away from it or there could be considerable delays.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make that appointment early for some entertainment which is appealing, but later you may find it is too costly to make different plans.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be sensible in handling home affairs and plan to do work later, if there is a complaint. You have to show more devotion for your loved ones.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get busy at communications early since later something crops up which has to be handled quickly. Take care of errands.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Financial matters should come first today. Later be more careful not to over-spend where personal pleasures are concerned.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You are anxious to gain your own aims, but don't neglect matters at home. Make your life more as you want it to be so you can have peace of mind.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get routine tasks completed and look to a good friend for any financial assistance you may need. Take no risks while driving on the highway.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Go after personal aims, but if some important financial affair comes up, be sure to handle it well. Enjoy the company of an old friend.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Study new interests, and don't let a complaining person bother you. Your intuition is quite good today for reaching solutions.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can speed up plans for that trip you want to take, even though a friend interferes with some activity. Be very social tonight.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Talk your affairs over with those who are practical. Later be with your mate and have more happiness together during the evening.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Long talks with partners can clarify the picture. Handle a worldly matter later in the day. Be after to what is happening around you.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise - Zircon

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Find some way of gaining more self control and then make the changes you deem wise as you plan a trip that will resolve a problem. Don't give anyone cause for criticism that involves a community project!

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day to keep busy at whatever tasks are ahead of you and get much accomplished, no matter where you find yourself today.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Improve your appearance whether at home or in professional hands. Set up appointments for entertainment with good friends during the weekend.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Give more attention to home matters and plan to do some interesting entertaining of the right people during the daytime hours.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a fine day for shopping and running errands which your mate requested. Later you can visit with good friends.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Handle financial affairs well and then set up a more workable budget. Avoid anyone who likes to waste your valuable time on trivial matters.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a good day to get your health and appearance improved and become more dynamic in your actions. During spare hours, visit good friends.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have many small duties to perform and should get that out of the way. Come to a better understanding with your closest tie.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Study your relationship with friends and how to improve them, and plan how to return social favours provided to you at this time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Analyse how well you have handled career duties and decide how to accomplish more success and prosperity in the future.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study into more modern methods of operation and plan how to get them into production so that you can get ahead faster and be successful.

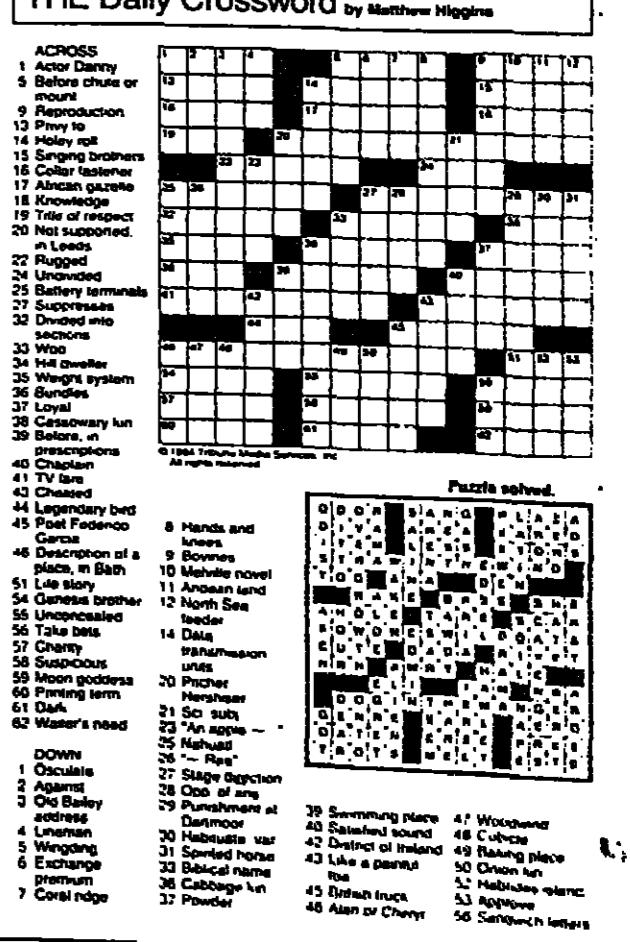
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can do much now to improve the situation with your mate and be happier in the days ahead and for romantic harmony to develop.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Study into business and civic affairs during the daytime and see how they can be of greater help to you for the future.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise - Zircon

THE Daily Crossword

By Matthew Higgins





AYS LEFT
Christmas
A sentimental present
DAJANI'S
House Prisons etc
JD 20,- (10% off)
shops 6th Circle Amman.

**Business
Daily
Sheet**

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

**House
panel to
recommend
pay rise**

★ The rapporteur of the Lower House's Financial Committee said that the panel has, in principle, decided on some recommendations to be presented to the House concerning the 1995 budget. He revealed that the main proposal was to give civil servants an unspecified pay rise. Other recommendations include extending health insurance to all citizens, refraining from asking schoolchildren to pay more money for different causes and providing more funding for the agricultural sector (Al Aswag).

★ British consultants Price Waterhouse will begin, by mid-January 95, to help implement the programme for restructuring the Kingdom's communications sector (Al Aswag).

★ An Asian company will reportedly visit Amman next month to discuss with the management of the Amman Bank for Investment the possibility of becoming a shareholder in the bank. The transaction reportedly will raise the capital of the bank by 25 per cent and transfer it to a commercial bank (Al Aswag).

★ The Cabinet has recently approved that the supervision work for improving Kharbet Al Samra project be awarded to the American company (C.O.M.) for approximately JD 1 million (Al Aswag).

★ Improve your appearance when you travel. Set up an appointment with a friend during the weekend.

★ Give more attention to home-care, entertaining of the right people.

★ Improve your appearance when you travel. Set up an appointment with a friend during the weekend.

★ Handle your affairs well and the budget. Avoid expenses that do not have a definite purpose.

★ The Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) decided to ease its terms for licensing pharmacies by shortening the required distance between two pharmacies to 120 metres instead of 250 metres (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ An open discussion on GATT will be held Thursday at the Amman Chamber of Industry between a team from the World Bank and Jordanian industrialists.

★ 1995 budget for Al Mar'i Governorate totals JD 17 million, JD 16.5 million of which is for recurrent spending (Al Ra'i).

★ The Jordanian Women Federation will hold a round-table discussion on "readings in the 1995 budget" Saturday at 5 p.m. at the federation's quarters in Jabal Al Hussein. Some Lower House members and specialists will be attending (Al Dustour).

★ A team from the Malaysian Civil Aviation Authority is expected to visit the Kingdom in two weeks' time to make the necessary arrangements for opening a direct line between Kuala Lumpur and Amman. Heavy traffic is foreseen for the route between the two capitals in 1995, especially from business, tourists and pilgrims travelling to Saudi Arabia or the holy sites in Jerusalem (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ The governor of the Central Bank is expected to hold a press conference during the coming few days. He will reportedly speak on monetary and financial issues, the monetary relationship with the Palestinian authority and Israel and the banking system in Jordan (Al Dustour).

**Jordanian authorities seize
Shahin's business, personal assets**

AMMAN (R) — The assets of the family-run Shahin Business and Investment Group have been ordered seized, a statement distributed by the Amman stock market said.

The value of the assets, seized after weeks of rumours that the group with wide-ranging business interests was deeply in debt, was not disclosed. Traders and bankers believed debts could exceed 40 million Jordanian dinars (\$60 million).

Reuters obtained a copy of the Amman Financial Market statement, dated Nov. 23 and circulated to brokers and listed companies to prevent any sale of shares affected by the court-ordered seizure.

Spokesman for Shahin and the company lawyer were not available for comment.

The company has some 1,200 employees, including nearly 1,000 farm labourers.

It has interests in food imports and exports, medical equipment, vegetable oil production, clothing shops and a projected aluminium can manufacturing plant.

The Amman Financial Market said a court order of Nov. 16 had ordered the seizure of shares and assets held by the Shahin Business and Investment Group and three related companies, plus assets of five members of the family.

"Please take note of and adhere to the contents of the above-mentioned letter and do not carry out any transactions or deals on any of the shares belonging to the above," the statement said.

The extra three Shahin companies noted in the court order were the Green Valley Company for Manufacturing Vegetable Oil Ltd., the Green Valley Company for

Trade and Supplies and the Arab International Company for Vegetable Oil.

Female executives' pay in U.S. is down

NEW YORK (R) — The best-paid female executives took a salary dive last year and continue to lag well behind the pay of their male counterparts, according to a survey released Tuesday.

The survey by Working

Women magazine said Rena Rowan, vice president of Jones Apparel and the highest-paid woman in corporate America, saw her earnings fall to \$4.03 million in 1992, \$2.7 million less than in 1992.

And her pay was 50 times less than that of the highest-earning male executive in America — Walt Disney Co. Chairman Michael Eisner, who took home \$203 million in 1993, the magazine said.

Sherry Lansing, chairwoman of Paramount's Motion Picture Group, came in second at \$3 million a year.

Further, 1992's top female earner in the survey, Turi Josephson, executive vice president of U.S. Surgical Corp., dropped to 15th place. Her compensation fell a stunning 3,000 per cent, to \$82,061 from \$26 million the year before.

Senior editor Diane Harris

said Ms. Josephson had topped the list for the previous two years by taking advantage of stock options. In 1993 the stock tumbled, as did her compensation.

Professional and managerial women on the whole fared better than others, with some female nurses and university administrators actually out-earning their male colleagues, the magazine said.

Mrs. Harris said the drops in women executives' compensation generally could be attributed to changes in tax laws that encourage them to exercise stock options in 1992, and to a downturn in the stocks in 1993.

One bright spot for the top 20 women executives was that their straight salaries rose nine per cent — double the average raise U.S. employees received last year.

China breaks ground on huge three gorges dam

BEIJING (R) — Premier Li Peng broke the ground Wednesday for the three gorges dam and appealed to foreigners to transfer technology for China's largest and most ambitious engineering project since the Great Wall.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the 185 metre (607 foot) high dam that will cut across the Yangtze river and aims to generate 18.2 million kilowatts of electricity on completion in 2009 follows a 40-year feasibility study and two years of preparatory work.

The success of the dam, the world's biggest water control project, will involve the relocation of more than one million people from thousands of farms, factories and towns who must move to make way for a huge inland lake created in the Yangtze valley by the dam, Mr. Li said.

Speaking as he broke the

ground at Sandouping, Mr. Li said the world's largest hydropower station would supply electricity sufficiently to meet the needs of much of central and eastern China, further fuelling an economic boom in the region.

Total cost is estimated at 90 billion yuan (\$10.5 billion) — not including interest payments and price increase that could boost the final bill to more than 100 billion yuan (\$12 billion).

Total investment will amount to 1.75 per cent of gross national product (GNP) and to 4.29 per cent of total investment in state infrastructure during the 17-year construction period.

Mr. Li said the dam offered unprecedented business opportunities for foreign investors — China's most overt effort so far to attract outside investment in what has been jealously guarded as a domestic project since it was first mooted in 1919.

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ARAB BANK	880	162,800	185.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	4,794	21,474	4.500
BANK OF JORDAN	385	1,500	3.980
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1,000	1,623	1.580
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	237	703	2.980
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	6,568	19,764	3.010
JORDAN LEVANT BANK	8,000	13,404	1.600
JORDAN AEGYPTIAN BANK	2,500	9,250	3.070
BUSINESS BANK	66	322	4.880
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	3,900	12,547	3.300
BEIT ELAL SAVINGS & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	12,450	19,018	1.540
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	600	2,310	3.830
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	10,559	18,084	1.700
PHILIPPINE INVESTMENT BANK	2,500	2,520	1.000
JORDAN INSURANCE	1,100	2,781	2.530
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	4,798	7,480	1.570
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	8,750	13,300	1.520
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER /NEW	150	257	1.630
JORDAN EIMES MINERAL	1,050	3,387	2.500
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	2,334	5,698	2.480
NAUTICAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1,248	1,741	1.500
PHARMA INDUSTRIES	29	5,985	20.500
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1,500	107	1.070
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	13,350	10,809	0.810
MACHINERY EQUIP. REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	550	6,270	11.250
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I	18,100	45,374	2.500
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COSMOPOLITE HOTELS	16,932	3,350	3.320
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	5,100	6,256	1.360
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JOORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	328	1,375	4.180
PALESTINE INDUSTRIES	1,200	11,445	2.740
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ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	1,500	1,530	1.020
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	100	710	7.150
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Kingdom's basketball season concludes today with Ahli-Orthodoxi clash

Hussein, Homentmen drop to 2nd division

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom's basketball season finally comes to an end Thursday evening when the top two teams — Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxi — clash in the final match of the First Division Championship.

Al Ahli had won the first round encounter 79-70, and need to repeat their win to retain their title. Al Orthodoxi may however prolong the competition if they win their upcoming match to force a title-deciding best-of-three-round.

The top two teams have been contesting the final for as long as fans can remember. Last year Al Ahli beat Al Orthodoxi 75-69 and 70-60 to clinch the title.

Al Orthodoxi had a vir-

tually undisputed reign throughout the eighties before losing the crown to Al Ahli in 1990.

Al Ahli won the title again in 1992 and 1993 and are this year aiming for their third consecutive crown.

Al Orthodoxi last won the title in 1991. They are represented by their younger lineup of players whom most thought would be an easy prey for the titleholder.

However, Al Orthodoxi have had a consistent form throughout the competition and if they capitalise over the absence of Nasir Bushnaq from Al Ahli's lineup they might well upset their opponent's plans of celebrations Thursday.

Al Orthodoxi are led by Hilal Barakat, who will team up with Jihad Saliba, Muntaser Abulayeb and a younger lineup including Jan Sahlieh and Ziyad Nabulsi. Their head coach is former star Murad Barakat who retired last year after leading his team in an undisputed reign on the country's basketball scene from 1976-1989.

Al Ahli's Ukrainian coach Alexander Sasha has an abundant number of players on the team. However their well-known stars like Samir Murqus, Marwane Ma'touq and Yousef Zaghloul have not demonstrated their usual form, while Bushnaq has missed the team's latest matches and seems to have disagreements with the club's board.



Former champions Al Orthodoxi — Will they be able to force a deciding round

Relegation battle unclear

Irbid 79-76, while Al Watani won the won second round match 84-68.

One interpretation maintained that Al Watani had to defeat Al Hussein with over three points to avoid relegation — which they did. While the other pointed out that both teams were tied and had the same results warranting a deciding match just like the battle for the championship's

crown.

If Al Hussein are considered relegated Al Watani will have finished last and maintained fifth place in the division.

Al Jazireh retained third place for a third consecutive year after defeating former third place holders Al Jalil 73-69 and 71-55. Al Jalil thus finished fourth.

STANDINGS

	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts.
Al Ahli	11	11	—	1156	605	22
Orthodoxi	11	10	1	1075	641	21
Jazireh	12	8	4	928	813	20
Jalil	12	6	6	787	815	18
Watani	12	3	9	815	1083	15
Hussein	12	3	9	759	1045	15
Homentmen	12	—	12	508	1020	10

France rediscover scoring habit

TRABZON (R) — France recovered the scoring habit when they beat Azerbaijan 2-0 Tuesday in a European Championship Group One qualifier.

Jean-Pierre Papin's goal in the 24th minute ended a goalless spell which had lasted almost 300 minutes. Patrice Loko added a second in the 55th minute to underline France's return to the goal standard.

The badly needed victory, in a match played on neutral ground because of security problems in Azerbaijan, boosted French hopes of reaching the 1996 finals after a disappointing start of three 0-0 draws in their previous qualifiers.



French Jean-Pierre Papin (centre) scores the first goal versus Azerbaijan during their European Championship qualifying game. France won 2-0 (AFP photo)

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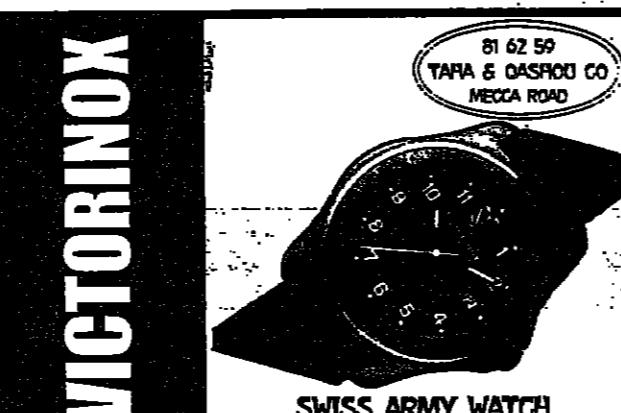
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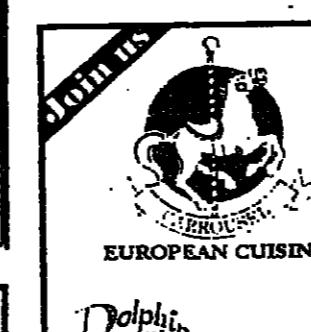
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Sampras, Agassi missing from Davis Cup team

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (R) — U.S. Davis Cup captain Tom Gullikson tabbed Jim Courier and Todd Martin to play singles against France in the first round next year after the world's top two players — Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi — decided not to participate.

Gullikson announced his choices of 10th-ranked Martin and Courier, currently 13th in the world, in a news conference at the Bayfront Centre Arenas in St. Petersburg — site of the February 3-5 tie against France.

The meeting marks the first time the United States and France will face off in Davis Cup since the stunning French victory in the 1991 final in Lyon.

Gullikson said Sampras declined an invitation to play for the United States because the first round takes place just one week after the Australian Open.

"Pete has been doing well in the Grand Slams and I think he felt he really needed a break after the Australian Open," Gullikson said of the Australian Open and Wimbledon champion.

"And you know, playing for your country in Davis Cup is certainly not a relaxing week."

Sampras played in the quarter-final win over the Netherlands and the semifinal defeat to Sweden last year.

Agassi, who helped the United States win its last two Davis Cups in 1990 and 1992, did not play in the international tournament last year, preferring to concentrate on recovering from injury and raising his world ranking, which had slipped into the mid-20s.

With his U.S. Open victory as an unseeded player and a strong finish in 1994, Agassi's ranking rocketed to second in the world. But Gullikson said Agassi had decided against playing Davis Cup before the semifinals next year.

Martin, who cracked the top 10 this year with strong showings in the Grand Slams events, went 3-1 in his Davis Cup debut year. He won two matches against India in the first round, but lost the deciding fifth match against Sweden to Magnus Larsson after beating Stefan Eberg.

Courier dropped out of the top 10 in 1994, going the entire year without winning a little. But he was 4-0 in Davis Cup play. He helped the Un-



Pete Sampras

ited States win the Cup in the 1992 final against Switzerland.

"He kind of lost his mental edge for a while and his desire for playing," Gullikson said of Courier's 1994 slump.

"What he doesn't lack is courage and Jim has the heart and spirit to get back in the top five."

Sampras, Sanchez Vicario named world champions

In London, Pete Sampras of the United States and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain were named Wednesday as the International Tennis Federation world champions for 1994.

Both won two Grand Slam singles titles during the year — Sampras the Australian Open and Wimbledon and Sanchez Vicario the French and U.S. Opens.

In addition Sampras, 23, won 10 other events and was runner-up at the Grand Slam Cup. Sanchez Vicario, who will be 23 Friday, won an additional six tournaments on the WTA Tour and finished the year as leader of the Virginia Slims bonus points standings, on which the selection of world champion is based.

Sampras, who was also the ITF world champion in 1993, held the number one position on the ITF computer programme which takes in performances in the four Grand Slams, the Davis Cup, the Grand Slam Cup and the ATP tour finals, in addition to all other ATP tour events.

It is considered the most accurate guide to a player's overall performance during a calendar year.

The awards will be presented at the Annual World Champions' Dinner during the 1995 French Open in Paris.

Rally tour caps Jordan autosports season

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With 1994 nearing its end, the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) holds its final event of the year Friday with the Zanussi Rally Tour caps Jordan's autosports season.

Bashar Bustami has already clinched the 1994 Jordan Drivers' Open Championship with 186 points following spectacular results including his fourth overall finish in the Jordan International Rally which was won by the Arab World's top driver, Mohammad Bin Sulayem.

The rally tour will provide an opportunity for Faris Bustami and Ammar Hijazi to fight it out in the battle for third place after Ahmad Al Daoud moved up to second place, with 144.5 points.

The winner of Friday's event gets 16 points. The second placed team gets 13.5 and the third gets 12 points.

The 300-kilometre-long rally tour will be held on entirely asphalt roads. Split-second timing and navigation will determine the winner.

The event includes two rounds. Competitors will set off at 9:30 a.m. Friday from RACJ headquarters. The second round will begin at 2 p.m. after a short lunch break. Final results will be announced at a prize-giving ceremony Saturday evening.

The fourth one this year. The season also included five other events: The annual Jordan international rally, two national rallies, a speed test and the Rumman Hill Climb.

Tareq Taba'i won the first two rally tours of the season, while Faris Bustami won the third.

RACJ have scheduled seven events for the 1995 season: The Jordan International, two national rallies, the Rumman Hill Climb, a speed test, and only two rally tours.

Chess players fall prey to Russian thugs

MOSCOW (AP) — The world's top chess players came to Moscow armed with intricate strategies and exceptional intellect. Perhaps they should have brought guns instead.

A rash of violence has rocked the 31st Chess Olympiad in Moscow, as its top-ranking participants fall victim to attacks, muggings, and threats from Russia's notorious criminal element.

The Macedonian team has been hit the hardest since the competition began Dec. 2.

The first attack against the team occurred after several of the players went to a currency exchange office across the street. As the team's 36-year-old captain, Lazar Jancic, handed \$7,000 to a cashier, five men entered the office, held down the security guards and seized the money.

In the second attack, according to the players, Jancic was beaten unconscious and robbed of \$2,500 by a group of street urchins outside his hotel.

The president of the Russian Chess Federation, Andrei Makarov, and Russia's long-time World Chess champion Garry Kasparov offered to compensate the Macedonians for their losses.

The U.S. team, whose top players are all Russian-Americans, also has fallen prey to Russian thugs.

Muggers stole \$700 from Alexander Yermolinsky, the top player for the U.S. team. The thieves threatened to kill Yermolinsky if he did not return the next day with \$70,000. Although they did not follow up on it.

Members of other teams said they receive threatening phone calls at all hours.

The violence comes amid increasing media reports about violence against Russian sports stars, especially those earning substantial non-ruble salaries in the west.

Sports

Rally tour caps Jordan autosports season

By J. Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With the Automobile Club of Jordan (AAC) to hold its final rally of the year Friday, Jordan's auto sports season has come to a close.

Al Hussein and Al Wihdat are third with 20.

Al Hussein and Al Wihdat will face slowly Shabab Al Hussein and Al Karmel — both almost certain to return to the second division.

In the most heated match, Al Ramtha will face Al Jazireh — the surprise team of the tournament — who were often threatened with relegation in past seasons but have maintained a top-five position this year.

In other matches, titleholders Al Faisali play Al Arabi, Al Jeel meet Kufraoum while Al Ahli play Al Qadissieh.

Standings remained unchanged after the 13th week concluded Tuesday. Over 18,000 fans were angered after the two popular teams, Al Faisali and Al Wihdat, were held to a goalless draw in their match at Amman stadium.

Although both teams lost scoring chances, they were content with the draw which enabled them to remain in second and fourth places going into the upcoming week.

Al Hussein could only manage a 1-0 win over Al Qadissieh who must start scoring some wins to secure themselves in the division.

Al Qadissieh had chances to score early against Al Hussein whose goalkeeper Khalid Isheidat saved his team

Jordan Soccer League

14th week kicks off today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The top teams might have a good opportunity to shed their slack image when the 14th week of the First Division Soccer Championship kicks off Thursday.

While Al Hussein retained their lead at the top with 22 points, they are followed closely by Al Wihdat with 21. Al Ramtha are third with 20.

Al Hussein and Al Wihdat will face slowly Shabab Al Hussein and Al Karmel — both almost certain to return to the second division.

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Al Qadissieh had chances to score early against Al Hussein whose goalkeeper Khalid Isheidat saved his team

Standings after 13th week

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Hussein	13	10	2	1	35	11	22
Wihdat	13	8	5	—	14	3	21
Ramtha	13	8	4	1	24	5	20
Faisali	13	6	6	1	22	7	18
Jazireh	13	7	3	3	17	9	17
Alhi	13	4	5	4	15	16	13
Kufraoum	13	6	1	6	21	23	13
Qadissieh	13	3	4	6	14	26	9
Arabi	13	3	3	7	14	26	9
Shabab Al Hussein	13	1	3	9	16	29	5
Karmel	13	1	1	11	10	31	5
Jeel	13	1	1	11	8	30	3

Pacers upset; Hawks, Lakers post wins

CLEVELAND (AP) — Mark Price passed to Greg Dreiling for a dunk and drove for a layup at the start of the fourth quarter as the Cleveland Cavaliers ran off the first 8 points of the period and beat the Indiana Pacers 90-83 Tuesday night.

The Pacers, who shot just 27 per cent in the decisive fourth period, had their five-game winning streak snapped. Cleveland has won three in a row.

76ers 105, Heat 90: In Philadelphia, Willie Burton, released earlier this season by the Miami Heat, scored a

career-high 53 points against his old team to lead the Philadelphia 76ers.

Burton's total was the highest in the NBA this season, it also set a spectrum scoring record, surpassing the 52 points scored by Michael Jordan on Nov. 16, 1988.

Hornets 107, Bucks 101: In Charlotte, North Carolina, Alonzo Mourning scored 20 points to lead the Charlotte Hornets to a victory over the Milwaukee Bucks, who have lost 10 of their last 11 games.

Hawks 85, Timberwolves 83, OT: In Atlanta, Andrew Lang's short hook in the lane

with 1:21 remaining in overtime lifted the Atlanta Hawks over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Lakers 115, Mavericks 108: In Dallas, Nick Van Exel hit four of eight 3-pointers down the stretch and matched a career high with 35 points as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Dallas Mavericks.

Bulls 98, Pistons 78: In Chicago, Scottie Pippen and Toni Kukoc got hot just in time to rescue Chicago from a horrific third quarter, and the Bulls went in to defeat the depleted Detroit Pistons.

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Arsenal draw Auxerre in Cup Winners' Cup

GENEVA (R) — The three Italian clubs left in the UEFA Cup managed to avoid each other in the quarter-final.

Juventus play Eintracht Frankfurt, Lazio face another German side, Borussia Dortmund, while Parma were paired with Odense, shock conquerors of Real Madrid in the 69th minute.

The last-eight line-up was completed by Bayer Leverkusen against Nantes.

European Cup Winners' Cup holders Arsenal, hit by allegations of financial irregularities against manager George Graham, were drawn against Auxerre of France.

In other Cup Winners' quarter-final pairings, Sampdoria play Porto, Feyenoord Rotterdam meet Real Zaragoza and Club Brugge take on Chelsea.

Lazio chairman Dino Zoff expressed relief at avoiding another Italian side but said that of all the "foreign" teams left in the UEFA Cup, Borussia Dortmund had to be the toughest.

Dortmund were thrashed 6-1 aggregate by Juventus in the 1993 final.

Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein welcomed the trip back to France, where the London side set themselves up for semifinal victory last season with a 1-1 first leg draw against Paris St. Germain.

Chesterfield managing director Colin Hutchinson said: "I am delighted with the draw and we are having better luck this time because with the fixture reversal we are now at home in the second leg."

"We have played Club Brugge before back in 1971, when we won through. We do not anticipate any problems because it will be an all-ticket affair and our fans will be going on package deals."

Part of Borg-Warner's worldwide empire is Wells-

British runner banned for 4 years

LONDON (AP) — Former Commonwealth 800 metre champion Diane Modahl Wednesday was found guilty of taking performance-enhancing drugs and banned for four years by the British Athletic Federation.

In a verdict that stunned the British media and top-name athletes supporting Modahl, such as Olympic 100 metre champion Linford Christie, a five-person BAF disciplinary panel announced it had rejected her case that samples taken from her had been improperly handled by a laboratory in Lisbon.

The committee was satisfied unanimously and beyond reasonable doubt that a doping offense had been committed by Mrs. Modahl," panel chairman Dr. Martyn Lucking said in a statement. "She is ineligible to compete in the United Kingdom and abroad for four years from June 18, 1994."

Modahl was notified just minutes before she was to begin the defence of her Commonwealth title in Victoria.

The committee was satis-

toria, Canada. She was suspended by the BAF pending a hearing and put on the next flight home.

But the notification of the positive result didn't come in time to stop Modahl running — and winning — her event at the European Cup earlier in the summer, a victory that helped Britain's women team qualify for the World Cup for the first time.

The IAAF, noting that Modahl's next move may be to take the case to an arbitration hearing under the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

She tested positive for the male hormone testosterone after finishing second at a minor meet in Lisbon June 18.

The positive result, however, wasn't relayed to BAF until 9 1/2 weeks later. It showed Modahl with a testosterone-epitestosterone ratio of 42-to-1, more than three times the level banned Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson once registered. The normal ratio is 1-to-1.

Modahl was notified just minutes before she was to begin the defence of her Commonwealth title in Victoria.

Modahl's experts argued

that her urine sample may have deteriorated because it was not properly refrigerated at the Lisbon laboratory.

The committee was satis-

fied that the specimen tested was that of Mrs. Modahl," Lucking said. "There was no suggestion of tampering. The committee considered very carefully the issue of degradation and its possible effects."

It also had been contended in media reports that two medical conditions suffered by the 28-year-old runner, polycystic ovarian syndrome and five-alpha reductase, could also have accounted for the abnormally high testosterone readings.

Lucking said Modahl's medical advisors did not raise this as a defence.

Fellow athletes have portrayed Modahl as a devout Christian who has passed all other drug tests she has ever taken. They say she is so devastated that she is likely never to compete again.

"Diane doesn't know anything about drugs," Christie said before the hearing. "If she is not found innocent, justice has not been done."

Security plans announced for '96 Olympics

ATLANTA (AP) — Thousands of private guards in uniforms with a symbol of the American west on the sleeve will help provide security for the 1996 Olympics under a multimillion-dollar contract.

Borg-Warner Security will provide security officers, ticket-takers and ushers to stand guard along with personnel from 37 law-enforcement agencies when the centennial games open in July 1996.

"This is part of our efforts to make sure that these are not only the most accessible but also the most secure games in Olympic history," said Billy Payne, president of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games.

Financial terms of the deal

— Borg-Warner gets to call itself "official protective services sponsor of the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games" — were not disclosed. Similar sponsorships have been fetching about \$10 million for ACOG.

Part of Borg-Warner's worldwide empire is Wells-

Fargo, a pony express rider in silhouette, will be drawn into the company's Olympic emblem and worn as a patch on uniform shoulders.

Summer Games, when Atlanta will host the 100th birthday party of the modern Olympics, and organisers want to make sure that residents of this city — which considers itself in the know of international relations — doesn't accidentally shoot itself in the foot.

The pages — one headlined "do's," the other "taboos" — were distributed to volunteers and other members of the public who will be dealing with visitors from as near as Bermuda and as far away as Brunei.

Among the do's:

— "Create a distraction-free environment."

— "Shake hands at greet-

ings. Follow lead if guest is of a royal household or of other higher office."

— "Speak slowly and enunciate your words."

— "Refer to your guest as an 'international visitor,' not a 'foreigner.'"

As for the taboos:

— "Topics of discussion such as politics, sex, religion."

— "The crossing of legs, over the knee, exposing the sole of a shoe to a member of Arabic culture."

— "The usage of jargon; colloquialism, and idiomatic expressions with guests who speak English as a second language."

— "Gum chewing, talking with hands in pockets or arms crossed at the chest, yawning and any further signs of boredom."

— "Pointing with fingers or people. Pointing to be done with an open hand."

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		CONCORD '1' Sed I Married An Axe Murderer		will soon present: Mousa Hijazin (SUM'AA) in the satirical political comedy: Hi Citizen	
		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30			
		CONCORD '2' Kim Basinger — in PIANO </td			

Russia issues ultimatum as troops advance on Grozny

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Russian government said on Wednesday it would use all means to restore order in breakaway Chechnya if separatist rebels failed to disarm by Thursday, the official ITAR-TASS news agency said.

"We confirm our intention to... put an end to the bloodshed in the zone of the Chechen conflict," it quoted a government statement as saying. "Those who fail to lay down their arms by December 15 will be responsible for all consequences of their criminal recklessness."

Meanwhile, the Russian troops advancing on the capital of Chechnya met fierce resistance from rebel fighters, as the separatist leader urged a battle to the death and peace talks failed again.

Fighting was heaviest near the village of Pyervomaiskoye, 15 kilometres northwest of Grozny. Russian troops, which entered Chechnya on Sunday to reimpose Russian rule, shelled the area from a hilltop morning and afternoon, causing most of the 700 residents to flee, witnesses said. They said at least two people were killed and eight wounded.

President Dzhokhar Dudayev, who declared his tiny Caucasus republic independent from the Russian Federation in 1991, urged followers to "burn the ground under (the Russians') feet. It is a fight to the death."

"Men, women, children, all Chechen people, we are ready to die," he said in a television address late Tues-

day.

Peace talks in the city of Vladikavkaz in southern Russia were called off because of Russia's "unacceptable" proposals, the Chechen chief prosecutor Usman Imayev told AFP.

"All the Russian proposals envisaged Chechnya agreeing that it is part of Russia, which is unacceptable," the Chechen official said.

More talks are possible if the Russians change their mind on this point but this series of talks is definitely over," he said.

Russian official in Vladikavkaz told AFP that the negotiations had not ended and that the Chechens just wanted to be able to consult with Gen. Dudayev.

Three Russian columns of hundreds of tanks and thousands of soldiers advanced on Grozny from north, west and east. One of them was 15 kilometres (nine miles) north of Grozny.

Another, about 50 kilometres west of Grozny, was still under orders not to advance after 500 civilians blocked its path Tuesday and the commander refused to open fire.

Five Russian warplanes bombed a suburb of the Chechen capital Grozny Wednesday afternoon in a raid that claimed several lives, said authorities in the breakaway republic, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

The planes then overflew the centre of the city, opening fire with heavy machine-guns, TASS quoted the authorities as saying.

Four other warplanes bombed a prison near the vil-

lage of Dolinsky, north of Grozny, Wednesday morning, while helicopters attacked Chechen army positions near the rebel republic's eastern border with the Russian republic of Dagestan, the same sources said.

A Russian helicopter gunship was shot down by automatic weapons fire west of the capital, killing two crew members, an AFP correspondent at the scene reported. The third airman was captured by the Chechens and taken to hospital.

"This whole campaign is senseless," murmured a Russian medical officer, echoing what he claimed was widespread dissatisfaction within the intervention force sent to crush Chechnya's independence drive.

"What is the point of fighting the civilian population?

The Chechens are ready for a partisan fight and then we'll be into a second Afghanistan," he added.

The captain, who asked to remain anonymous, said "many officers" in his division, which Wednesday had reached the Chechen town of Dovodinka after entering the rebel republic from the west via neighbouring Ingushetia, shared his fears over the operation.

"Most of us think the whole business is pointless, even those who aren't doctors," he added, showing off the Red Cross badge he wears on his left arm.

"I agree with him, and I know all about Afghanistan — I was there," said a colleague (see related story below).

His remarks marked a turnaround in official efforts to promote him as the marja ala after the leader of the sect, Ayatollah Ali Araki, died of old age last month.

Mr. Khamenei said he was willing to be the supreme leader of Shiites outside Iran. But few Shiites outside Iran regard Mr. Khamenei as a top-ranking cleric and it was unclear how he could achieve the post.

Mr. Khamenei, whose qualifications are those of a middle-ranking cleric, said there were other scholars who could be chosen to lead Iranian Shiites.

His retreat indicated that opposition to him within the religious hierarchy may have been insurmountable.

But Mr. Khamenei said that "contrary to the propaganda and designs of the Western mass media, there is no power struggle in Iran on the important subject of the marja ala."

Traditionally the supreme leaders of the sect have been chosen by the clerical hierarchy, without government interference. They also have steered clear of involvement in politics.

Mr. Khamenei as the supremo of Shiites is chosen.

In his speech, which was monitored in Cyprus, he said:

"What need is there for



Chechen soldiers Wednesday run away from a Russian Mi-8 military helicopter fearing it might explode after shooting it down near the village of Shusany-yurt (around 40 kilometres west of Grozny). Two crew members were killed and one wounded but the pilot managed to land it on a road (AFP photo)

Khamenei does not want supreme spiritual leadership of Shiites

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Bowing to internal opposition, Iran's spiritual leader said Wednesday that he was not a candidate for the supreme leadership of Shiite Muslims in Iran.

In a speech broadcast on Tehran Radio, Ayatollah Ali

Khamenei said that his present duties did not allow him to assume the position of marja ala, or supreme spiritual leader of the Shiites.

His remarks marked a turnaround in official efforts to promote him as the marja ala after the leader of the sect, Ayatollah Ali Araki, died of old age last month.

Mr. Khamenei said he was

willing to be the supreme leader of Shiite Muslims outside Iran. But few Shiites outside Iran regard Mr. Khamenei as a top-ranking cleric and it was unclear how he could achieve the post.

Mr. Khamenei, whose

qualifications are those of a middle-ranking cleric, said there were other scholars

who could be chosen to lead

Iranian Shiites.

The burden of leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the worldly responsibilities that go with it are like those of several marjas," Mr. Khamenei said in his speech, which was monitored in Cyprus.

"What need is there for

the religious and political authorities in a single person to boast its own influence at home and among Shiites worldwide and to promote its version of militant Islam.

Shiites comprise about 10 per cent of the world's 1 billion Muslims. They are the predominant sect in Iran and the majority in Iraq and Azerbaijan. Small populations also exist throughout the Muslim World.

Marjas have traditionally come from Shiite theological schools in Iran and Iraq.

Some Iranian clerics said

during the recent debate that Iran should not allow the promotion of a marja from

outside Iran because the overseas ayatollahs generally

believed in separation of religion and politics, opposing the cornerstone of Khomeini's 1979 revolution.

Iranian newspapers printed

a selection of religious rulings

to have a child."

In another, asked about

the propriety of a man mastur-

bating in a laboratory to

provide a sample for a sperm

count, Mr. Khamenei re-

plied: "Masturbation is re-

ligiously forbidden... except

if masturbation for testing is

the only way to determine

the cause of the couple's inability

to have a child."

Belgians find

fingerless arm

to accompany foot

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Police

in the east Belgian city of

Liege reported the finding of

a human left forearm from

which the fingers had been

amputated five days after

municipal street-cleaners dis-

covered a human foot. The

severed limb was found

among trash cans in front of a

house in a district on the

other side of the river Meuse

from the bus shelter. Here

the foot, wrapped in newspaper, had been deposited.

Police say the foot was that of

a woman taking a small shoe

size. Police scientists are in-

vestigating.

Murder suspects

win ban on jokes

about them

LONDON (R) — A couple

accused of murdering 13

young women between them

in a case that has made front-

page headlines in Britain for

10 months have won a battle

to stop a comedian from tell-

ing jokes about them.

Mr. Saltanov said his coun-

try appreciated "Jordan's

moderate position" towards

the developments in

Chechnya which reflects the

Jordanian government's

keenness on maintaining

Russian unity.

He pointed out the meet-

ing His Royal Highness

Crown Prince Hassan had

with the Committee of Foreign

Affairs at the Lower

House of parliament and a

meeting the ambassador had

with Speaker of the Lower

House of Parliament Sa'ad

Hayel Srour.

Hamas celebrates 7th birthday

GAZA (AFP) — Hundreds

of Gaza students marked the

seventh anniversary of the

Islamic Resistance Move-

ment Hamas on Wednesday

as Israel lamented having

encouraged the creation of the

hardline fundamentalist

group.

"Hamas forever," some

400 students chanted at one

Gaza City school where an

Israeli flag was unfurled with a dagger through the middle.

Teenagers acted out the

October kidnapping by

Hamas of Israeli corporal

Nachshon Waksman who

died when troops stormed the

hostage-takers' West Bank

hideout.

"We committed a terrible

mistake, particularly the

heads of the security services

who believed that Hamas was

a religious organisation

opposed to the PLO," Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi

Beilin told state radio.

"We thought at the time

that Hamas was only in-

terested in religious questions

and not in politics. We do not

understand the true nature of

the organisation," Mr. Beilin

said.

Israeli military experts say

Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin, who was defence

minister in December 1987

when the intifada erupted,

deliberately promoted